



## THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

## HEALTH

Health expert on sleep, part 2: how much you need and how to get it

## PLUS:

See how local players are performing in our £50,000 interactive Team Football

WEDNESDAY

## ARTS

The greatest tearjerker ever told? Rodney Milnes on 100 years of *La Bohème*

PLUS: Interface, our weekly computer supplement

THURSDAY

## FILMS OF THE WEEK

Geoff Brown on *Les Misérables*, the movie

PLUS: Health, the Books pages and John Bryant on sport

FRIDAY

## POP

Why schools are inviting boy bands into assembly

PLUS:

The Valerie Grove interview, and the Education page

SATURDAY

## MONEY GUIDE

The A-Z of Personal Finance, part 2

## PLUS:

The Magazine, Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: BARGAIN BREAKS WITH OUR PASSPORT TO EUROPE

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Dublin Government 'will not be treated in that manner in future'

## Spring accuses Major of divisive tactics

BY NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S Deputy Prime Minister attacked Britain yesterday for its dealing with Dublin over the peace process. In his harshest comments in months, Dick Spring accused Britain of spreading rumours that he took a harder line on Northern Ireland than John Bruton, his Prime Minister. He described this as 'an old British tactic' of 'divide and conquer'.

Mr Spring voiced Dublin's anger with John Major for proposing elections in the Province without fully consulting the Irish Government. He told Irish Radio: 'We will not be treated in that manner in the future. We are a sovereign Government dealing in international relations.'

His comments came as British

ministers prepared for a series of critical meetings this week to allay nationalist fears about Mr Major's election proposal. The Prime Minister will tomorrow tell John Hume, the SDLP leader, that his proposal would not herald a return to a Unionist-dominated, Stormont-style assembly. Mr Major will also say that an elected body would provide the only forum for all-party talks if the IRA continued to refuse to disarm.

Senior Anglo-Irish officials will also meet tomorrow to prepare for a full Anglo-Irish Conference in London on Thursday between Mr Spring and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary.

Mr Spring said yesterday he would tell Sir Patrick that elections were 'not on at this time'. He added that

the best way forward lay in the recommendation in the Mitchell report that political parties should sign up to six confidence-building measures. These include a commitment to renounce violence.

Mr Spring said: 'Let us get to all-party talks. Let the Unionist parties with the Irish Government and put forward their views and their proposals in relation to how they see an election being part of this process.'

His comments were echoed by Mr Hume, who rejected Mr Major's election proposal. In an interview on ITV's *Dimbleby* programme, the MP for Foyle said Mr Major had shifted the goalposts in a bid to delay all-party talks. However, Mr Hume held out hope when he declined to say whether he would boycott elections.

'Until I talk to [Mr Major] in detail and get a detailed notion of what he is on about I am not going to get into setting down guidelines.'

Sinn Fein also sounded a more conciliatory note yesterday when Martin McGuinness said the party would consider Mr Major's election proposal. His comments contrasted with remarks by Gerry Adams, who said on Friday that Sinn Fein was 'implacably' opposed to it.

Asked on BBC's *On the Record* programme whether Sinn Fein would take part in elections, Mr McGuinness said: 'I think that is an option which will have to be considered by the Sinn Fein leadership along with others. We will do that in due course.' The leading Sinn Fein member, who later addressed a rally in Londonderry commemorating the

24th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, stressed that his party was not opposed to elections.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, insisted that Sinn Fein and the IRA would have to build trust either by disarming or by standing for election. Asked on *Dimbleby* whether he would talk to Sinn Fein in an elected body before the IRA had disarmed, Mr Trimble said: 'If the necessary conditions were met, yes.'

Judges in Northern Ireland have protested to the Lord Chancellor over a move to withdraw their police bodyguards. Unionist MPs and some government ministers have also been warned that their RUC escorts and armoured cars will no longer be available from early March.

Letters, page 17

## Bennett's 'Madness' scoops awards

Alan Bennett's film, *The Madness of King George*, won awards for best screenplay and cinematography at the Evening Standard Film Award held in London last night.

Jonathan Pryce won the best actor award for his performance as Lytton Strachey in *Carrie's War*. For the second year running, Kristin Scott Thomas was named best actress, this time for *Angels and Insects*.

The most promising newcomer was director Danny Boyle whose debut film *Shallow Grave* was the most successful UK production at the box-office over the past year. Lewis Gilbert, the director, whose films include *Reach for the Sky*, *Carrie's War* and *Educating Rita*, received a special award in recognition of his contribution to British film-making.

### Pay gap persists

The Equal Opportunities Commission is marking its 20th anniversary with a campaign to narrow the pay gap between men and women. Male employees earn 20 per cent more on average than women in spite of the progress towards equality achieved over the past two decades. The problem is marked among part-time workers. The commission is to issue a code of practice to help end discrimination.

### Arctic gold hunt

A British geologist is to lead a team of researchers to prospect for gold on the Svalbard archipelago, off the Norwegian coast near the North Pole. Dr Steve Staley, 35, from Church Broughton, Derbyshire, is selling shares in a company called Cold Gold to raise £100,000 for the expedition this summer. He believes analysis of sediment from streams will point to large underground deposits in the remote islands.

### Pilots delayed

David Beddoe and Tony Richards, the British pilots who are flying a 50-year-old Tiger Moth to South Africa on a route pioneered by Alan Cobham in 1926, have reached Brindisi in Italy. Take-off on their next leg was delayed yesterday by poor visibility in Rome and slow paperwork at their fuelling stop in Salerno. Today they hope to take their plane, *Skippy*, as far as Preveza in Greece.

### Barton's back

The classic radio detective series, *Dick Barton, Special Agent*, is being brought back on Radio 4. The pilot show, which features Dick's son and is to be called *Dick Barton, General Practitioner*, is written by Lol Mason, son of the original writer, Edward J Mason, who also created *The Archers*. Richard Vernon plays Dick Barton and Robert Bathurst is his son in the pilot, which will be recorded next month.

### Lottery winners

Three of the four winners of this week's £40 million National Lottery jackpot came forward yesterday as two bishops joined the Prime Minister in arguing that the lottery was not harmful. The Bishop of London, the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, said it was 'pantomime fun' and the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Stansfield, said the churches' criticisms of greed had missed the public mood. Winning numbers, page 20.

## Thaw offers only brief respite from snow and freezing wind

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

ICY roads and bitter easterly winds will continue to cause misery for days in spite of a thaw in some areas, forecasters said yesterday. Snow flurries and 35mph gusts are expected to hit again on Saturday morning, only hours after the end of a four-day blackout.

More cold weather benefits are expected to be triggered around the country today. Since November, social security offices have made 3.7 million payments totalling £32 million. Last winter just £7,000 was paid.

Braemar and Aviemore already qualify, and forecasts of sub-zero temperatures mean more are likely to receive the £8.50 weekly benefit. It is made to three categories of income support claimants: pensioners, disabled people

and parents of children under five. One of the worst-hit areas yesterday was the Rhymney Valley, Mid Glamorgan, and parts of Cumbria. Frozen power cables left 900 households without electricity yesterday morning, only hours after the end of a four-day blackout.

'Power lines normally the thickness of a finger are now the size of a toilet roll and the extra weight has brought down cables and snapped poles,' South Wales Electricity said. 'Workmen have been out until lam in temperatures of -17F. The conditions are appalling, with freezing fog so we cannot even fly in helicopters with generators.'

In northeast England engineers reported milder weather with only 'isolated' pockets of Co Durham and Yorkshire without power. The AA

mobilised every available patrol vehicle to tackle twice its normal number of Saturday calls. 'We are not expecting an improvement until Wednesday,' it said.

One woman died and another was seriously injured as they walked along the M1 hard shoulder near Haigh, West Yorkshire. Their vehicle had skidded on ice and they were seeking help when a Rover went out of control and hit them before prompting a multiple pile-up in which nine others were hurt. A fire engine also lost control on the icy carriageway.

A man died when his car went into the River Lea in north London. Divers worked in vain to pull him from the freezing water. Two firemen were treated for exposure.

The weather caused an in-

crease in admissions to casualty departments around the country. Glasgow Royal Infirmary said: 'We are 50 per cent up on admissions, with mainly fractures.' Orthopaedic referrals to casualty were up by 50 per cent on Saturday at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham.

The thaw brought little relief in London as firefighters received 1,500 calls as a result of burst pipes.

The weather had benefits for some, however. Bird-watchers were out in force in search of rare migrants. Among the birds being seen in much greater numbers than usual are Arctic redpolls, which arrived in Suffolk about a week ago, and waxwings, sighted on the eastern coast.

Forecast, page 20

## Massive rise ahead for council tax

Continued from page 1

will be more than wiped out. The exact amount the Government should spend will be published by the Environment Department today and debated in Parliament on Wednesday.

However it is unlikely to vary much from the £44.92 billion announced in the Budget last November when the Government admitted that council tax would have to rise by an average of at least 8 per cent just to maintain services at existing levels.

This year is not intended to be just a one-off blip in the growth of council tax. The Government's own projected figures, issued at the time of the Budget, show that over the

next three years council tax is meant to yield an extra £2.8 billion — equivalent to 1.2 per cent on income tax.

The expected increase, the largest since the council tax replaced the poll tax, comes after a 5.4 per cent average rise last year, when the average tax bill of £499 was £25 higher than in 1993-94. This year the average council tax for the country is likely to be around £540 — an increase of about 8.4 per cent.

However, few areas are close to the average and there will be wide regional variations. The impact will be particularly hard felt in London, where the government grant has been reduced in 13 of the 33 authorities. This

leader is thinking of freezing payments at last year's levels. 'We are allowed only a 4 per cent increase and if we agree that, it will still mean we have to cut services costing £35 million from our budget,' he said. 'If we decide on a freeze, it will only mean cutting a further £4 million and people might prefer to put up with that rather than face a further rise in their very high council tax.'

The Association of London Government calculates that inner London boroughs face an average 16.4 per cent increase in 1997-98 — the equivalent of £100 on a Band D property. The London situation has been exacerbated by the phasing out this year of transitional relief granted to cushion the effects on more expensive properties of the switch from poll tax to council tax.

In Liverpool, which levies the highest council tax in Britain, Harry Rimmer, the

Family 'frowned on wrestling'

# Fanatic who had money to indulge his bizarre tastes

FROM QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

JOHN Eleuthère du Pont, the multimillionaire barricaded in his Pennsylvania home yesterday after the shooting of an Olympic wrestler, is a great-great-grandson of the brilliant young entrepreneur from whom he takes his second name.

When the French Revolution began in 1789, Eleuthère du Pont de Nemours was a 17-year-old chemist at the royal gunpowder mills at Essone. He emigrated to the New World and, noting the poor quality of American explosives, founded a gunpowder factory in Delaware.

That venture created the basis for one of the historic family fortunes of the United States. Du Pont is one of those recurring names in American society, such as Rockefeller, Vanderbilt or Ford. Du Ponts are benefactors and achievers: they make things happen and their names adorn public works committees and high society party lists. They can be found in the old East Coast states such as Virginia, Delaware, and the Carolinas, and they are rich.

The family money, which so many used for philanthropy, allowed Mr du Pont to indulge his bizarre tastes and amateur pursuits. One of them was a fascination with explosives.

Mr du Pont is a man of near-obsessive hobbies, from



The ancestor: Eleuthère du Pont de Nemours

seashells to assault vehicles. He built a museum in Delaware to house his collection of stuffed birds, and his seashell collection exceeds two million in number. He was a fanatical swimmer before he turned to wrestling.

He also supported the police, allowing officers to practise at a shooting range he built in his grounds. Such was his interest in the police that he enlisted as a volunteer policeman.

He was known to report for duty in his private helicopter. He bought bullet-proof vests and radio equipment for the local police station and was on first-name terms with most local officers.

Sgt Brian McNeill of New-

town police said Mr du Pont's

connections with the police had helped him to attain the necessary gun permits he needed for his collection of weapons, which included a Gatling gun.

Vicki Welch, a neighbour, disclosed that one Christmas Mr du Pont drove down the street in a tank, popped his head through the turret hatch, and calmly asked if her husband wanted to "come and play".

Mr du Pont has in the past said that his relations disapproved of his interest in wrestling and considered the sport unsuitable for a member of such a notable family. "It wasn't a country club sport," he said in a newspaper interview. "Wrestling was thought to be the sport of ruffians."

He ignored their wishes and gave money to support a wrestling programme at a nearby university until the college board became uncomfortable about the generosity he was showing some of the young male athletes.

Mr du Pont's former wife, Gale, disclosed that when married she was threatened by Mr du Pont and reported the matter to the police in Newtown but they took no action. Mr du Pont tried to push her from a moving car, menaced her with a knife and accused her of being a Soviet spy.

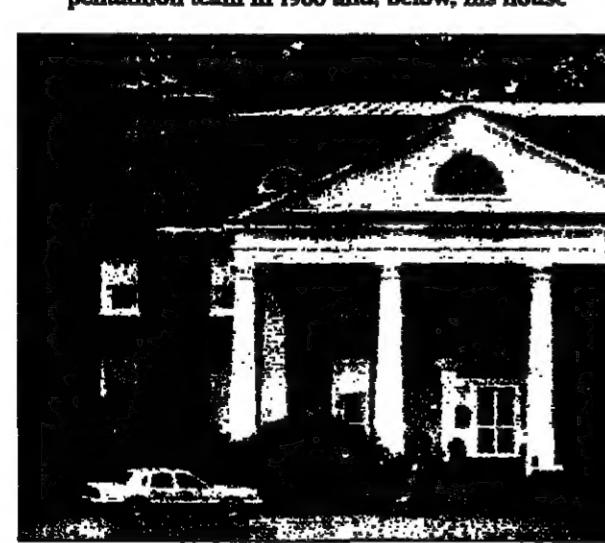
At the time of the complaint, police said Mr du Pont was simply "eccentric", a response they repeated when Dan Chaid, another wrestling coach, reported that Mr du Pont had pointed an automatic rifle at his chest in the gymnasium. "We're talking about a sick guy here," Mr Chaid said. He claimed that Mr du Pont sometimes took cocaine.

In 1988 Mr du Pont was accused of sacking Andre Metzger, a wrestling coach, because he turned down his homosexual advances. Mr du Pont denied the story. Dan Mayo, another wrestling acquaintance of Mr du Pont, said: "The best thing to do was work hard, keep your distance and win. John helped out a lot of people, but he wasn't the most stable human. You knew it was going to end in some crazy fashion."

Mr Schultz was known for his aggression on the wrestling mat and after taking the gold medal in the 1984 Olympics he was accused of showing "excessive brutality" to his opponents. He replied by saying: "What are they trying to do, turn this into a sissy sport?"

He took Russian language lessons so that he might understand what his rivals were saying to their coaches. Stan Abel, a retired wrestling coach, said Mr Schultz and his brother Mark were such elegant practitioners of the sport that they were "the Michelangelo's of wrestling".

John du Pont training for the US Olympic modern pentathlon team in 1966 and, below, his house



## Young master of lieder dismisses his disability

BY DALYA ALBERGE



clean mind and a heart which works."

He makes his London debut with a lieder recital at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday, singing Schubert, Richard Strauss and Wolf, accompanied by Charles Spencer. In March, he will give a concert at the Barbican Centre in London with the English Chamber Orchestra under Pinhas Zukerman. In August, he will be heard in Britten's *War Requiem*, with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Quasthoff's recordings include Schubert lieder; a review in last September's *Hifi News* spoke of "memorably beautiful singing. What a voice this is!"

Quasthoff is to sing Don Fernando in a recording of Beethoven's *Fidelio*, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, and a disc of Mozart arias is on the way.

His engagements throughout Europe for the coming year include an appearance with Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra.

Although comfortable about discussing his disability, he tries not to draw attention to it. His publicity makes no mention of it. Quasthoff is a singer who happens to be disabled.

He says of his performances: "I want to sing expressively and take the audience on a journey with me."

Quasthoff about the words,

and few are able to identify as closely and as passionately as he does with the emotions that inspired them."

Disability was "not a problem", Quasthoff said, explaining that he had lived with it for 36 years and drew strength from his family, friends and music. He added: "I live alone. I don't need any help. I'm sure you have a dark side. Everybody does. We are all disabled. My luck is that everybody can see it. I know so many people who have psychological problems or who are only looking for money or a career."

He says of his performances: "I want to sing expressively and take the audience on a journey with me."

That is also a kind of illness. My problem is short arms, short legs, but I have a



Du Pont, front, with David Schultz, the Olympic wrestler who was shot dead outside his home on Mr du Pont's 800-acre estate on Friday

## Lloyd Webber bemoans 'lack of creativity'

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Andrew Lloyd Webber criticised British pop music yesterday for what he described as a dearth of imagination and creativity. He lamented the lack of melody and memorable lyrics in every area of popular music from singles and dance hits to musical theatre.

"We are going through a grim period," he said, asking where today's Lennon and McCartney were to be found. "We forget how good a lot of songs were in the Fifties and Sixties. There were so many, we took them for granted."

Sir Andrew is the composer of hits such as *Cats*, which today becomes the longest-running musical on Broadway and in London. It has been seen by 60 million people. They come out hummable songs such as *Memory*, whose appeal lies in melody — something lacking in today's pop, he said.

"There's been a turn for the better in the last six months, but not a substantial one," Sir Andrew said. "I don't think there's been a number one in the charts which has really cut through melodically."

He refused to name any band or individual, but chart-toppers in those months included George Michael, Blur and Take That.

He does not keep up with the latest groups, he said, though he does listen to radio chart shows. He dismissed "all those endless dance

records", although conceded that the recordings were technically impressive. His concern is most strongly felt in music-theatre. He cannot see any lyricists or composers of note emerging: "We don't seem to have found somebody who'll come forward. I feel I'm working in a vacuum. I can't think of any other time when there has been so little going on."

He acknowledged talents such as Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg, who wrote *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon* and who are working on a musical of *Martin Guerre*. "But they are older than me. We've got to find somebody."

He has discussed with the impresario Cameron Mackintosh the idea of a joint initiative to inspire the next generation to put pen to paper. Even song-writing competitions, he said, had failed to produce a name to watch.

Amanda Harcourt, of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors, expressed some sympathy for Sir Andrew's views on dance music: "At 122 beats per minute, it is difficult to tell where one ends and the next begins." She said, however, that the quality of entries in this year's Great British Song Contest, the "British Eurovision", have been "better than for a long time".

Photograph, page 20

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**An open letter to the Rt Hon John Gummer MP, Secretary of State for the Environment.**

# IS THIS WHAT YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE?

Dear Mr Gummer,

We are gravely concerned that the Housing Bill to be debated in Parliament today (29th January) will have harmful consequences for homeless people.

It is proposed to prevent local authorities offering permanent accommodation when they accept homeless households for housing. Instead, families and vulnerable individuals of all ages who have suffered the trauma of homelessness will have to qualify on other grounds of housing need – which could take years. *Surely the people in greatest need are those with no home at all?*

Instead of the security of permanent accommodation, councils will be encouraged to house homeless families in the private sector – even though research shows this could add up to £118 million to the Housing Benefit Bill in the first year alone.

While waiting, families in temporary accommodation could find themselves moving as often as every six months. Imagine the damage to children's education if they have to change school each time they move.



Homeless families could wait for years before they get permanent housing

Research by respected academics has highlighted the disruption caused by frequent moves – both to homeless

children, and to their classmates too. *Children should not be made to suffer because of a failed housing system.*

When you add up all the factors involved...increased Housing Benefit Bills...the disintegration of families...the destructive effect on children's schooling...the effects on vulnerable people of all ages, it becomes clear that the wider economic and social repercussions of this legislation will be costly and every bit as undesirable as the suffering of homeless people themselves.

We therefore ask you to reconsider. The Government wants to ensure that housing goes to those with the best claim to it. Our experience tells us that these changes are not the best way to achieve that aim. Many of us have met with you and your officials already to discuss your proposals.

We will happily do so again if there is a chance of avoiding the unfortunate consequences of passing the homelessness proposals in the Bill as it stands.

It's still not too late. We ask you to reconsider. For the sake of homeless families now and in the future, please think again.

## Signatories

**Mike Aaronson**  
Director General, Save the Children Fund  
**Ann Abraham**  
Chief Executive, National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux  
**Victor Adebowale**  
Director, Centrepoint  
**Andrew Arden QC**  
**Tony Babbage OBE**  
Chairman, National Housing and Town Planning Council  
**Jan Burnell**  
Director, National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations  
**Cllr. J. Bury**  
Chair, Social Services Committee, Association of County Councils  
**Deborah Constable**  
British Youth Council  
**Jim Coulter**  
Chief Executive, National Federation of Housing Associations

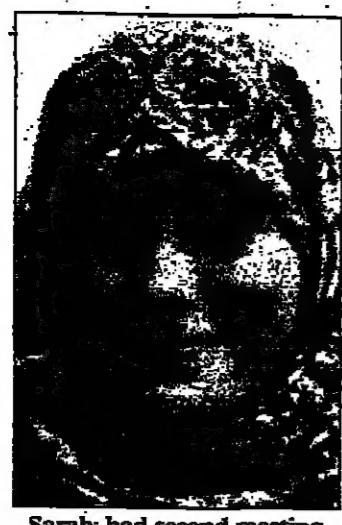
**Rabbi Tony Dayfield**  
Chief Executive, Reform Synagogue of Great Britain  
**Sheila Durston**  
London Homelessness Forum  
**Graham Facks-Martin**  
Chair, National Housing Forum  
**Jon Fitzmaurice**  
Director, CHAR – The Housing Campaign for Single People  
**James Goudie QC**  
**Christine Gowridge**  
Director, The Maternity Alliance  
**Sally Greengross**  
Director General, Age Concern  
**The Rev Dr Leslie Griffiths**  
Past President, Methodist Conference  
**Cllr. Toby Harris**  
Chair, Association of London Government  
**Chris Holmes**  
Director, Shelter

**Chris Ingram**  
Chairman, CIA Group plc  
**Cllr. Paul Jenks**  
Chair, Housing Committee, Association of District Councils  
**Phil Jew**  
Campaign for Bedsit Rights  
**Bharat Mehta**  
Chief Executive, National Schizophrenia Fellowship  
**Cllr Margaret Moran**  
Chair of Housing, Association of Metropolitan Authorities  
**Steve Miller**  
Social Action – A joint project of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues  
**Peter Mountford-Smith**  
Director Specialist Information and Training (SITRA)  
**Kieran Murphy**  
Chief Executive, Gingerbread

**Mildred Neville**  
Chair, Churches National Housing Coalition  
**Gerald Newman**  
Law Society of England and Wales  
**Nick Nightingale**  
National Secretary, National Council of YMCAs  
**Karin Pappenheim**  
Director, National Council for One Parent Families  
**Bill Payne**  
President, Chartered Institute of Housing  
**Dinsdale L Pender**  
Commissioner (The Territorial Commander), The Salvation Army  
**Jill Pitkeathley**  
Chief Executive, Carers' National Association  
**Robina Rafferty**  
Director, Catholic Housing Aid Society

**Les Roberts**  
Director, ACRE – The Rural Communities Charity  
**Mark Scithorn**  
Director, Crisis  
**Roger Singleton**  
Senior Director, Barnardo's  
**Mary Smith MBE, BIA, FCIIH**  
President, Housing Centre Trust  
**Ian Sparks**  
Chief Executive, The Children's Society  
**Sue Wald**  
Chair, Young Homelessness Group  
**David Warner**  
Director, Homeless Network  
**Tom White CBE**  
Chief Executive, NCH Action for Children  
**Sally Witcher**  
Director, Child Poverty Action Group

## Schoolgirl 'bride' defies court order to return home



By CAROL MIDGLEY

SARAH COOK, the Essex schoolgirl who illegally married a Turkish waiter, has been allowed a second private meeting with him in jail after defying a High Court order to return to Britain.

Sarah, 13, who has denied reports that she is six weeks pregnant, visited the prison in southeast Turkey where Musa Komegac, 18, faces charges of statutory rape, on Saturday.

Senior British diplomats are putting pressure on Sarah's mother Jackie to persuade her daughter to come home. She was made a ward of court on Wednesday by the High Court, taking responsibility for her welfare away from Mrs Cook, 37, and her husband Adrian, 42, and ordered to be returned to Britain "forthwith".

The Family Division of the High Court is due to meet again to reconsider the case today, when Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, will hear a report from Essex social services.

He will also hear from the Official Solicitor, who has been appointed to look after Sarah's interests, and may call Mr Cook, who is still at the family home in Braintree, to explain his daughter's absence.

The judge can make a decision or give the social services another seven weeks to complete a full report. The existing order is not enforceable in Turkey and the judge may ask the Foreign Office to make official representations to the Turkish Government or ask the police to approach their counterparts in Turkey.

The situation is complicated

because Sarah is a witness in Musa's case, which has been adjourned until February 15, when he could be sent for trial at a later date. The local law association will meet in the Maras region tomorrow to work out the legal implications of the case, which is unprecedented.

Mrs Cook, with Sarah in Turkey, is still her legal guardian there but not in England, where the court is responsible. She initially gave permission for the marriage but has been trying to get her daughter to change her mind. She says her daughter is happy and appears unwilling to make her do something against her will.

In a public show of defiance yesterday, Sarah kissed the Koran to reiterate her love for her adopted country. Locals have liked

ened Musa and Sarah to Romeo and Juliet and are mobbing her as she walks through the town. A group of Turks calling themselves the Tolerance Movement laid a bouquet of carnations in front of the British consulate in Istanbul and urged that Sarah be allowed to stay.

On Saturday night the Turkish authorities granted Sarah a 25-minute meeting with Musa in Aksu prison, three miles from Kahramanmaraş where she is staying with his family. She was accompanied by her mother. On Friday night, Sarah and Musa met for the first time since he was remanded in custody last

Monday. Turkey's Ministry of Justice said the British High Court order had, as yet, no validity in Turkey. To prove that Sarah was a ward of a

British court and required to return to Britain, the British Government would have to open a case in Kahramanmaraş which could take weeks or months.

Asian Yildirim, the Turkish provincial governor, said: "The child will stay. These two people love each other. Sarah is our bride now."

A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "We can't force Mrs Cook to do anything. We can advise her of the judgment made by the Family Division of the High Court."

Musa faces up to five years in jail for statutory rape because the legal age for marriage in Turkey is 15. Asked about rumours that she was pregnant, Sarah said: "I do not want to have a baby until I am at least 25."

Earlier in the day, she was

treated like a celebrity in Kahramanmaraş when she went for a walk around shops. Mehmet Ozas, a local journalist, said: "Her maturity and the way she is able to answer questions and take everything in her stride has amazed everyone. The local people show genuine affection for her."

"They call her 'the people's bride' and have given her lots of presents, including gold bracelets. Musa is being treated like a king in prison and she has become a local celebrity."

Sarah has said she felt ugly in England and was bullied at school. She flew to Turkey to be with Musa after she met him on holiday last year. The couple went through a marriage ceremony three weeks ago. She has adopted Muslim dress and is not seen in public with her head uncovered.

## Soccer scores as new A-level goal

By DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DEMAND from schools and colleges has led one of the country's largest examination boards to introduce A levels in football, rugby and cricket.

They are A levels of two halves, split between the candidate's abilities and an academic analysis of sports history, training methods and tactics. Soccer A-level students will be assessed in dribbling, passing, shooting and heading, as well as an ability to analyse games on video.

The Associated Examining Board believes its move will broaden the appeal of physical education in support of a call by the Prime Minister last year for more team-based sports in schools.

PE and sports studies were introduced as A levels ten years ago but the board feared an outcry over standards if soccer and rugby were included. The idea is now felt to have proved itself academically, with general acceptance by universities and almost 15,000 candidates at 600 schools preparing to take the A levels this summer.

Almost one third of the marks for A-level PE are based on the candidate's performance in two chosen sports: one team game and one individual pursuit. The sports-studies A level has a 3,000-word dissertation instead of an assessment of practical skills.

In the soccer syllabus, 40 of the 200 marks available in practical assessment are for skills including dribbling, passing, shooting and heading during a game. A further 30 marks each are for attacking and defensive play. Demonstrating skills individually earns up to 40 marks more. The remaining 60 marks are for an ability to analyse tactics live and on video. All this forms 15 per cent of a final A-level grade.

Seventy per cent of marks will be for academic work on the physiological aspects of sport, exercise and training methods, muscle operation, circulation and energy science, as well as historical, cultural and social studies.

George Turnbull, of the examining board, said: "It is a traditional A level in the sense it is academic. They have got to demonstrate good technique but links are practical to the theoretical, so they have an understanding of what they are doing and why they are doing it. It is not just a case of scoring five goals and getting an A level."

Sport, pages 21-22



Commissioner Bratton and two of New York's finest: he likes the intimidating look of the old-style uniforms

## Howard seeks US inspiration for crime clampdown

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AN AGGRESSIVE American "can do" style of policing, which has cut crime in New York, is being examined by British forces.

Senior ministers and police officers, led by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, have visited New York to study how the think-positive policy could help to sharpen British police performance. A report is being prepared by a two-man team sent to the city last autumn by Sir Trevor Morris, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

There is particular interest in New York's system of making police commanders answerable for their area's crime-fighting performance at monthly meetings with their superiors.

One British police source said: "In New York they are targeting crime and getting criminals, not accepting it as an endemic disease in society. It is a robust, brisk management technique. The process could work here and get things done."

There was a 17.5 per cent drop in serious crime in New York last year. The homicide rate is at its lowest for 25 years, with 1,182 killings last year compared with 1,582 in 1994. There were 65,000 fewer felonies last year.

In Britain there are 600 to 700 murders annually. Scotland Yard said there were 174 cases of manslaughter and murder in London in 1994-95.

The man behind the changes in New York is Commissioner William Bratton, who took over two years ago. Supported by the Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, a former dis-

### Hotline calls cost £80 each

A telephone line to allow victims of crime to object to "perpetrators" being given temporary release from jail has had less than one call a day. Last year the line had 238 calls and the bill comes to more than £80 a call. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced the line in 1994 after several prisoners on home leave committed crimes. Harry Fletcher, a probation officers' leader, yesterday urged "real support for victims, not the sham of a hotline".

Local police chiefs were asked by how much they thought crime could be cut, and those who considered only small reductions were sacked. This led

to a stream of older, middle-ranking officers resigning or taking early retirement to be replaced by a new breed of younger commanders eager to make the streets safer and push up arrest rates.

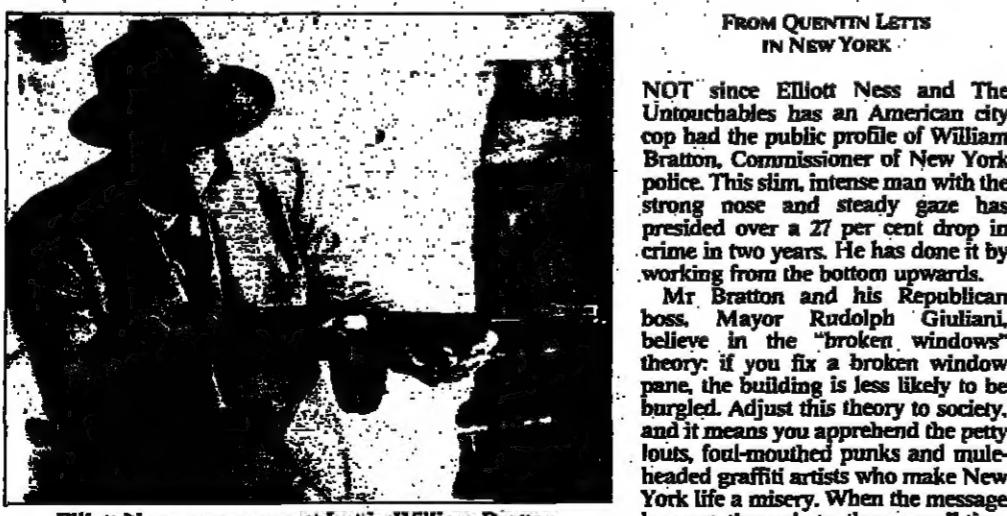
They are trying to wrest back areas dominated by drug dealers under a "zero tolerance" strategy which has also seen a clampdown on prostitution in public places, itinerant windscreens, washers, drunkenness and "boombox" music systems in cars.

Mr Howard is eager to make police officers more accountable for their crime-fighting performance, but has had to dilute his proposals for performance-related pay. In New York commanders must account for their crime-fighting efforts at meetings where they face Jack Spatz Maple, the Deputy Commissioner, and their peers for up to three hours.

A Whitehall source said: "Mr Howard was impressed with what has been achieved in New York. A lot of the analysis of crime done there is also done here but the police do not get enough credit for what they are doing."

The team from the inspectorate was led by Dick Monk, a former Scotland Yard commander and now an Assistant Inspector of Constabulary. He and a colleague spent a week in New York, studying how police worked in different precincts. Later this year Brian Hayes, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, will visit the city to seek policing methods that could benefit London.

## Tough guy with ruthless approach to low-lives and ineffective cops

From QUENTIN LETTS  
IN NEW YORK

Elliott Ness: a successor at last in William Bratton

NOT since Elliott Ness and The Untouchables has an American city cop had the public profile of William Bratton, Commissioner of New York police. This slim, intense man with the strong nose and steady gaze has presided over a 27 per cent drop in crime in two years. He has done it by working from the bottom upwards.

Mr Bratton and his Republican boss, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, believe in the "broken windows" theory: if you fix a broken window pane, the building is less likely to be burgled. Adjust this theory to society, and it means you apprehend the petty louts, foul-mouthed punks and mule-headed graffiti artists who make New York life a misery. When the message has got through to these small-time

urban low-lives, the theory goes, it will start to reach the higher levels of the criminal fraternity.

To describe Mr Bratton as a "tough guy" is to underestimate him, although he is certainly a wiry customer who has little sympathy for weaklings and likes old-style uniforms and their intimidating look. He has introduced monthly "Comstar" (computer statistic) appraisals of the city's 76 police precincts. Each area's latest crime rates are measured and examined for trends. Local commanders who fail to show that they are up to speed are fired and, if the Comstar figures merit it, a task force of officers is dispatched to the trouble zone to deal with the problem, clinically and fast.

Mr Bratton, himself a decorated former neighbourhood beat cop, was previously in charge of transport policing in New York and his native

Boston. He focused on apprehending fare dodgers on the New York subway, reasoning that they were the muggers of tomorrow. Subway crime was halved and there are now more passengers, a classic example of the Giuliani "quality of life" policies.

Police in New York police stations remind officers to "Just Ask". In the old days, petty offenders such as drunks and beggars were ignored by the police. Now, officers question them to find out what else and who else they know. Under persistent questioning — "Do you have a gun on you? Are you carrying drugs? Do you know any dealers?" — it is amazing what someone who has been stopped for, say, a motoring offence will admit.

Most of the city's traffic wardens, who had no power of arrest, have been disposed of. Instead, Mr Bratton has deployed a police officer at most major

road junctions. The idea is not only to improve traffic flow, but also to make people aware of where they can find the nearest cop.

Complaints about police brutality have increased, to which Mr Bratton responds: "That's too damn bad." Mayor Giuliani came under pressure last week to save money by cutting police numbers. With the murder rate down 39 per cent, the accountants can argue that such a big police force is not needed. It remains to be seen if Mr Bratton can protect his empire.

Meanwhile, the criminal classes have not had it so bad for a long time. From the itinerant car windscreens menacing motorists for tips, to the mafia warehousemen running Manhattan's fish market, life on the wrong side of the street has not been much fun since Messrs Bratton and Giuliani hit town.

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Researchers say society faces growing turmoil as teenagers clash with pensioner parents

## Fortysomething fathers 'threaten future of family'

REPORTS BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

A SHARP increase in the number of men fathering children in their 40s and 50s is likely to put the family unit under severe strain within the next decade. The prospect of 'pensioner parents' who have little understanding of their teenage children, little money to pay for their upkeep, and who may actually need their children to care for them, is worrying social researchers and economists.

Analysis of the latest figures from the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys reveals the marked trend towards middle-aged fatherhood. The proportion of children fathered by men in their 40s has grown by 67 per cent in less than two decades.

In 1971, there were 35,257 live births within marriage to fathers in their 40s, compared with only 23,787 in 1977. The figures also record a 44 per cent increase in the proportion of children fathered by men in their 30s since 1976, a rise of 59 per cent for men in their 50s and a 143 per cent rise among over-60s. The increase is more surprising because, at the same time, the number of legitimate births fell from 513,880 to 456,919. Meanwhile, fatherhood among men in their 20s fell by 31 per cent between 1977 and 1993.

It has been almost wiped out among teenagers. In 1966,

18,000 children were born to fathers in their teens. In 1993, the figure was 1,400. The figures relate only to legitimate births and some of the fall can be attributed to the increase in single mothers.

Social changes since the 1970s include an increase in the number of second families as the divorce rate has risen and in the age at which women have children. Patricia Morgan, senior research fellow with the Institute of Economic Affairs, pointed to American research showing children had little understanding of their elderly parents.

She added that women were choosing mature men to father their children because so many young males were unmarriageable. "Certainly in working-class areas, women who get married are often looking for much older men because these are the ones that have a wage packet."

The trend towards older fatherhood coincides with a worrying loss of affluence and security among middle-aged men, raising the question of who will pay for the children. "A lot of middle-aged men are being made redundant and you don't inherit," said Ms Morgan. "Men used to be at the peak of their careers in their 50s, whether they were town hall clerks or surgeons. Then you had mass redundancies,

23 he was in Laos and at 26 in Africa. He has lived in Thailand, India and America. "I had a very good time living all over the world," he said. "I can't imagine not doing those things. It wouldn't have been possible to have a family, given my lifestyle. Maybe I wasn't mature enough."

Family history suggested, however, that one day he would settle down. "Fundamentally, I always had the notion that I wanted to have children in my 40s because my father and mother had me in their 40s," he said.

"All my grandparents were born in the 1860s and 1870s.

"I was never broody as such. I just

knew in principle that fatherhood was a good thing. Like a pre-pubescent thinking about sex, you just don't have a notion until it's your turn. I am delighted that I didn't get married in my 20s. I'm more soppy about my children because they are so young and I am so old."

Mr Palling once had to carry the body of a murdered child when he worked for the UN High Commission for Refugees on the Thai-Cambodia border. He now has a quiet life, running the small, upmarket Western & Oriental Travel company.

Mr Palling's girlfriend, Lucinda Bredin, a former deputy editor of

Harpers & Queen, accepted his proposal of marriage soon after they returned from a holiday in Florence. They had a Buddhist wedding in a friend's garden in Bangkok. She is 11 years his junior.

"The joy of having children when you are older is that you know what you want out of life," he said. "In my 20s or 30s I would have been so worried about missing the next rung on the promotion ladder.

"It's very maturing. I can see why people become more conservative and rooted in material things because you have a real responsibility to look after your children."



Tim Keefer with his son, Tom: "My grandson James was excited to see Grandad's little boy, not jealous at all"

## More involved second time around

TIM KEEFER took early retirement from his job as a bank manager and decided he could cope with a new baby at home. His second wife, Gill, 15 years his junior, wanted to pursue her career in merchant banking.

Mr Keefer, 51, who has an adult daughter and son and a grandson, finds caring for 20-month-old Tom fulfilling. He was 21 when his daughter, Michelle, was born to his first wife, Christine, and 24 when his son, Christopher, arrived.

"My participation was less than now because Chris-

tie was at home looking after the kids while I was out grafting," he said. "I didn't see them develop. With Tom I have a different viewpoint. It is quite a wonderful experience to be with him."

"We went to antenatal classes. I certainly didn't feel out of it. I was at Tom's birth and I wasn't for Michelle. I was very proud. Once a week I look after my grandson James, who is five, and he was very excited to see Grandad's little boy, not jealous at all."

Mr Keefer married again ten years ago, when he was

still an ambitious assistant manager and his second wife's career had yet to develop.

"I have found the whole thing rather uplifting. You do get situations where for two or three nights in a row Tom is not sleeping too well and you have to get up and comfort him. I find that pretty tiring."

"In ten years' time I'll be in my 60s and Tom will be coming up to 12 and demanding a lot more energetic things from me. I expect one day Tom will wake up and think: 'He's a bit past it. My father lived until his 90s. I'm hoping

## Abbey's 'vulgar' window must go

A Victorian stained-glass window in Sherborne Abbey is to be replaced with a modern design after the vicar, the Rev Eric Woods, campaigned to have it removed. The Court of Arches, the highest church court, dismissed an appeal on Saturday by the Victorian Society to save Augustus Pugin's window, which Mr Woods had said was "vulgar".

William Flitner-Sankey, of the Victorian Society, said: "We are very disappointed. We believe that there is a good case for keeping the window. It is beautiful and important historically." The society may take its case to the Privy Council. Peter Cormack, of the Council for the Care of Churches, said: "Historians are convinced that the window should be retained."

### Disabled victim

A disabled man given a 50 per cent chance of surviving surgery to his spine was beaten and robbed of £50 yesterday by three men as he walked home on crutches from a night club where he worked. Maurice Castles, 30, from Bitterne, Southampton, was left in agony after the attack.

### World record

A record number of listeners are tuning in to the BBC World Service. Audience figures published today show a weekly global audience of 140 million listeners, 5 per cent up on last year's 133 million. The Government is considering proposals to cut World Service funding by £20 million.

### Nightclub death

A student found dead in a nightclub toilet may be the latest victim of the drug ecstasy. Ben Noades, 18, of Boscombe, Dorset, is believed to have taken two tablets of the drug before entering a club in Aldershot, Hampshire. A post-mortem examination is due to be held today.

### Deanery raided

Antiques and silver worth over £4,000 have been stolen from the home of the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson. The haul included Victorian silver, cutlery and a French clock. A police spokesman said the thief from the deanery in Eastgate was "a very professional job".

### Guard for whales

Coastguards last night mounted a security vigil on six sperm whales that died after becoming stranded on Cruden Bay beach, north of Aberdeen, early yesterday. Attempts were made to save one found barely alive but all died. A decision will be made today on how to dispose of the whales.

### Royal visit off

A visit by the Princess Royal to British scientists near the South Pole has been cancelled because the aircraft due to fly her there has developed mechanical problems. The Princess was due in the Antarctic after a five-day visit this week to the Falkland Islands, which is going ahead.

### Beware otters

Signs warning of otters crossing the road are being erected at various danger spots in the Shetland Islands to try to cut the number being killed by vehicles. The otter colony, which has grown to over 1,000 and is rising rapidly, is increasingly at risk as the animals lose their fear of humans.

## 'I'm more soppy about my children because I am so old'

THROUGH all his adventures as a young man — living in dangerous and exotic countries as a foreign correspondent and a wartime worker for the United Nations — Bruce Palling never felt the urgent need to be a father. Today, the 46-year-old enjoys nothing better than to wake before dawn to give his 18-month-old son Henry his first feed of the day.

"I always leap in there with his bottle at 6am because it's such a pleasant experience," said Mr Palling, from Notting Hill, west London, whose other son, Cosmo, is three.

He left Australia when he was 22 to explore the world's exciting places. At

23 he was in Laos and at 26 in Africa. He has lived in Thailand, India and America. "I had a very good time living all over the world," he said. "I can't imagine not doing those things. It wouldn't have been possible to have a family, given my lifestyle. Maybe I wasn't mature enough."

Family history suggested, however, that one day he would settle down. "Fundamentally, I always had the notion that I wanted to have children in my 40s because my father and mother had me in their 40s," he said.

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Mr Palling's girlfriend, Lucinda Bredin, a former deputy editor of

## CSA on the trail of affluent men who claim poverty

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE Child Support Agency is to have new powers to investigate fathers who conceal their wealth in order to pay lower maintenance.

Self-employed men who live in expensive houses and drive costly cars but make low payments because they are modest earners on paper will be required to explain how they can afford their high standard of living.

Mothers who are seeking maintenance will be encouraged to gather evidence about the lifestyle of their former partner to present to the agency.

Critics fear that the new rules will put pressure on second wives because of the difficulty of disentangling couples' assets.

The change is part of the Child Support Act 1995, which is to be laid before the Commons by Andrew Mitchell, a junior Social Security Minister.

The new regulations will for

the first time allow officials to depart from the complex formula used to calculate maintenance payments, if there are special circumstances.

A spokesman for the Department of Social Security said that someone who had exceptionally high travel costs to work, which were not allowed for in the formula, could be helped by the regulations.

They will also, however, allow investigations into "re-partnered" men, such as those self-employed and company directors, who seek to avoid paying maintenance by claiming they have little money but still have a good standard of living.

"There has been quite a bit of correspondence from women on this. It is a loophole that ministers want to try to close," the department's spokesman said.

The new powers will work both ways, however. Fathers will be able to apply for a

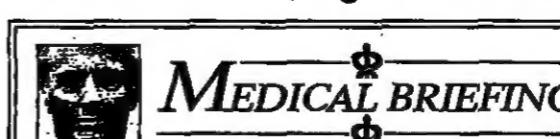
reduction in maintenance payments if they have evidence that their former partner's standard of living is higher than their declared income.

A pilot scheme is planned to start in Hastings, East Sussex, in April and the system will be introduced nationwide by the end of the year.

Critics of the CSA condemned the move, saying it would be difficult to distinguish a father's assets from those of his new partner. Bruce Liddington, chairman of Families Need Fathers, said: "Anything which brings more flexibility to the way the Child Support Agency works is to be welcomed. But the immoral side of the agency is that it is bringing a third party's income into consideration."

That may not be the intention, but experience has shown the declared intentions of the agency to be so much nonsense."

## Specialist care is key in breast cancer



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

admitted to specialist breast units and those dealt with by general surgeons.

It had been thought that the affluent might have better rates of survival. However, the survey carefully classified patients being studied as to their social class, the time when the patient came forward for treatment, the size of the tumour when it was first noticed, and the degree to which the cancer had spread — if indeed it had spread at all.

The survey, published in the British Medical Journal, has recently shown that even when allowance had been made for each of these factors, it was the skill of the surgeon and the team, as measured by their special interest in breast disease, that was a constant and important factor in determining the outcome of treatment.

The research found that there was no difference in the type of patients referred by general practitioners to specialist or non-specialist units, and that it was the treatment that mattered rather than the socio-economic group to which the patients belonged.

In a specialist breast unit, surgeons have the advantage of working closely with pathologists and oncologists who are equally well trained and dedicated.

The skill of the pathologists in classifying the nature of the breast tumour, and that of the oncologists in supervising

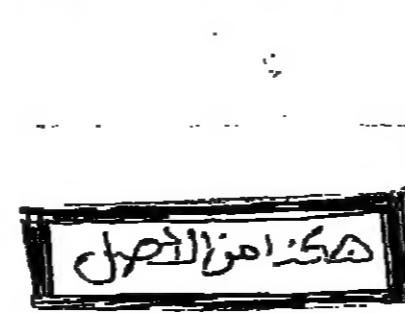
the type and, if necessary, the mixture of drugs prescribed, is also likely to be better developed as a result of more experience in a specialised breast unit.

The research workers from the surveillance unit also excluded the possibility that the advantages of going to a specialised breast unit might reflect GPs' different ways of choosing patients for referral to one surgeon or another; they found that there was in fact no difference in the type of patient referred to either unit.

The statistics showed that the advantage of attending a specialist breast unit was particularly important to those women who developed cancer between the ages of 50 and 64. Overall, the chances of survival were improved by 9 per cent five years after surgery, and by 8 per cent ten years later.

Selecting the best medical unit may be as important as selecting the best school but at the moment, most patients are denied this freedom of choice.

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## Thunderstorms may force Global Challenger to follow route of doomed Swedish adventurer

# Branson crew to brave balloonists' Arctic graveyard

By ANDREW PIERCE

RICHARD BRANSON and his fellow round-the-world balloonists are preparing to follow the route of pioneering Swedish balloonist Salomon August Andrée, who froze to death in the Arctic almost a hundred years ago.

Emergency plans were drawn up at the weekend by the *Virgin Global Challenger* team to adopt a more northerly route across North America and the Arctic. The route, which is fraught with danger, has been chosen to try to avoid potentially lethal sub-tropical thunderstorms.

After lift-off from Morocco, the balloon will head east across North Africa — if negotiations for permission to enter Libyan airspace are successful. Other countries to be crossed include India and China.

Mr Branson and his crew members, Per Lindstrand and Rory McCarthy, are planning to return to the balloon in Marrakesh later this week. The launch has been delayed because of unusually cold and wet weather in Morocco.

Any plan to cross the Arctic, long regarded as a graveyard for balloonists and aviators, must take into account the possibility of a forced landing. The *Global Challenger* crew spent the weekend studying the final harrowing reports of Andrée's death in 1897. It was one of the most poignant and dramatic incidents in the



Salomon August Andrée, the Swedish adventurer, took off from Spitsbergen to cross the North Pole in 1897 but was brought down when ice shards ripped his balloon

history of Polar exploration. The frozen remains of Andrée and his two companions, Strindberg and Fränkel, were found in melting snow in September 1930. They had taken off in their 5-tonne hydrogen balloon from Spitsbergen to fly across the North

Pole, but it was torn to shreds by shards of ice which formed when they flew below 21,000 feet.

Mr Branson said: "It will be vital to stay above 21,000 feet. Below that we are vulnerable to the 'supercooled ice droplets phenomenon'.

At a certain point they turn instantly to ice when in contact with a particle of dust or dirt. If they hit the balloon they will bring us down. We know about the phenomenon. Andrée did not."

After they came down, Andrée and his colleagues travelled 200 miles in a frail canvas boat over broken ice before their deaths on an island off Spitsbergen. Their bodies were not found until September 1930.

Dr Gunnar Horn, a Norwegian explorer who made the grim discovery, wrote:

"Strange were our feelings standing on the very beach where valiant Andrée and his companions had 33 years ago made their last halt. In deep silence we went towards the camp, which only too distinctly told us what had happened. There was a boat

half buried in the snow with its stem towards the shore. Beside it was a sledge and on the ice some yards further away a piece of black and red cloth with windows, perhaps a piece of tent. And Andrée himself, only recognisable by the monogram on his coat,

leading against the side of the mountain a few yards northeast of the boat. He had worn Polar shoes and was otherwise well dressed.

"We may imagine their joy when they set foot on the island and had firm ground to tread upon and no longer the unpleasant drifting ice. But from Kvito [now Kvitya, White Island] they could not get away.

"Truly they fought and struggled bravely and valiantly to their very last moment as true sons of the country which fostered them." Their remains were eventually buried in Sweden in 1934.

The *Virgin* team is undaunted by the prospect of an Arctic landing and has spent last week planning such an event. They have been taught how to build an igloo and the balloon capsule will be loaded with freezing-weather suits and liferafts.

The three men have been taught how to turn their parachutes into rescue signals and each has a search and rescue beacon that broadcasts on the aviation distress frequency.

Mr Branson said: "An Arctic landing is not ideal. It is an option we are looking at seriously. It will give us a greater variety of choices in terms of the jet streams across the Pacific and the Atlantic. Because the weather has been so unpredictable it will give us more flexibility. We have learnt the lessons of Andrée."

## Ministry revokes rest periods for shellfish

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN rules which set the same tough conditions on the transportation of mussels, oysters and winkles as those for veal calves have been blocked by the Government. The regulations required the shellfish to be transported in conditions that "avoid injury, stress and suffering" and to have regular rest periods during their journey.

In addition they had frequently to be sprayed or immersed in water and lengthy travel documentation had to be completed for journeys more than 50km (30 miles).

Shellfish producers faced huge extra costs because of the rules, drawn up by the European Commission in response to public concern about the welfare of live animals on long journeys. The directive app

lied to livestock and "any other cold-blooded creature of any species".

But after intervention from Angela Browning, the Agriculture Minister, suppliers have been told that the regulations can be interpreted so that they are merely "appropriate for the species concerned".

The problem was brought to the attention of the Government by John Whittingdale, Tory MP for Colchester South and Maldon, whose constituency includes several shellfish producers.

He said: "This is an example of an inflexible regulation,

which is dreamt up by unthinking bureaucrats, that has the unintended effect of threatening the livelihoods of large numbers of people for quite clearly ludicrous reasons.

"Everyone supports the idea

of having humane regulations to govern the transport of cattle, sheep, and warm-blooded animals, but the idea it could be extended to cover shellfish is patently absurd."

Peter Davidson, owner of Dengie Shellfish in Southminster, Essex, feared his daily loads of crabs, lobsters, winkles, oysters and mussels to and from Billingsgate market in east London would be severely affected. "Because the journey is more like 50 miles than 50km, I would have needed a piece of paper for each of the batches of shellfish to be moved," he said.

"There would have to be rest periods, and rest periods for shellfish would presumably mean putting them in water or damping them down. But because many of my oysters are purified, you are not allowed for health reasons to re-immersion them or spray them again until they are sold. The whole thing is an absolute nonsense."

Mrs Browning said: "The regulations were slipped through at the insistence of other EU member states. It could have been a piece of Euro-nonsense had we allowed it just to go on as it stood.

"What is appropriate for transporting sheep is very different to what is appropriate for transporting a few bags of mussels. Our concern at MAFF with shellfish is that they travel hygienically so they are good and fresh to eat at the other end."

Shellfish producers have also been told they do not have to draw up journey plans. But they will have to carry basic documentation governing all live creatures in transit, stating where they have come from and when they set out.

## Spain agrees to pay Cornish fishermen

By A STAFF REPORTER

BRITISH fishermen will finally receive compensation from Spain for damage to their nets and gear during clashes in the Bay of Biscay two years ago. A total of £100,000 is to be paid to owners of trawlers from Newlyn, Cornwall.

Trawlers lost nets and gear when larger Spanish boats steamed through their positions in the lucrative tuna fishing grounds. Talks have been going on ever since to clinch a compensation deal and a spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said they expected the money would be paid directly to the fishermen within the next fortnight. The

deal comes too late to stop one skipper quitting the sea. Martin Jones, 47, lost gear worth £26,000 from his trawler *Pilot Star* in the clashes. Now he has decided to scrap his boat under the Government's decommissioning scheme to reduce the size of the British fleet and yesterday was busy cutting it up.

"We have been told the

money is coming so many times I will not believe it until I actually bank the cheque," Mr Jones said. "All the time this has been dragging on I have been paying interest on the money I had to borrow from the bank to replace the damaged gear."

## Lord Lichfield bans mobile phones on pheasant shoots

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Earl of Lichfield has ordered sportsmen not to use mobile phones when they go pheasant-shooting on his Staffordshire estate.

He is threatening on-the-spot fines of between £20 and £50 for people who refuse to switch off their phones while on his shooting grounds at Ranton, near Rugeley. The fine for a telephone ringing is £20 — but it goes up to £50 if the call is answered.

Lord Lichfield, the photographer known professionally as Patrick Lichfield, lives 15 miles from the shooting fields, in a flat at Stugborough Hall, set in 900 acres and run by the National Trust.

Rodney Hassard, the estate's agent, said the earl felt it was "frightfully bad manners" for sportsmen to take mobile phones while out shooting. "When you are

others make sure people ring them just for show. They even get calls from their girlfriends on the shoot, and that is not the done thing."

"Some people are worse than others and are on the phone the whole time. The shooting manager, whose job it is to find people and move them around, finds somebody is not there they are on the bloody phone. People come out in the countryside to enjoy themselves, not to be on the phone."

Lord Lichfield was not available for comment yesterday. However, he is adamant that people visiting the countryside cannot do so encumbered by modern technology. Fines collected will be distributed between shooting and country organisations.

The estate was given to the National Trust in 1966 but Lord Lichfield still lives in part of the main house.

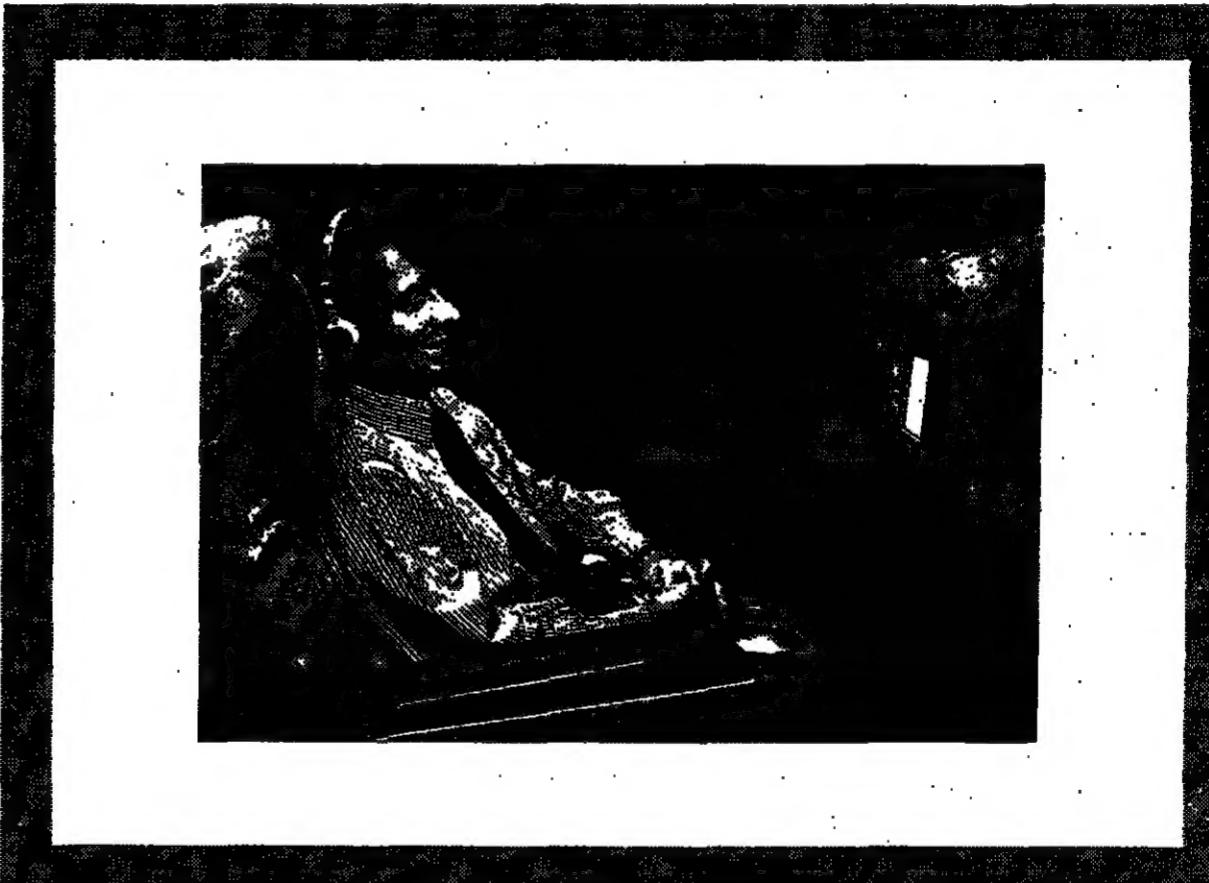
Lord Lichfield: £50 fine for answering the phone

going shooting you are doing something leisurely. You are there to enjoy yourself, not to make business calls," Mr Hassard said.

"Some people come just to show their telephones and



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الإمارات للطيران

Rags and bullet casings testify to the thousands of Muslims feared killed by jeering captors

# Mass graves scar hillsides round former Serb camp

AT THE edge of a forest above the Serb-held Vlasenica there is a 40ft-wide dirt pit. Bits of clothing, stray shoes and bullet casings poke out from the flattened earth. A dilapidated blue trench-digger sits perched by its side.

Refugees going through the forest in October 1992 say they saw bodies being dumped. It is impossible to say how many may be buried in the basin because the town has been sealed off to journalists and human rights workers for three-and-a-half years.

Hundreds, possibly thousands of people, were killed in Serb-held Vlasenica, the site of the Susica detention camp where the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal estimates 8,000 Muslims were interned. The camp commander has already been indicted for war crimes.

One surviving witness recalled bodies stacked like logs

**I said we should remember this spot because some day people should know what happened here**

and another a forty-load of soldiers shouting: "There you are, dead Muslims. Soon there will be more of you." Two weeks ago American troops set up a base camp four miles from Susica in the ethnically cleansed village of Gradina, outside Vlasenica, making it possible for journalists to visit the town for the first time since its capture by the Serbs in the summer of 1992. The Americans were horrified as they pitched tents in the gardens of burnt-out houses.

But the horror of the charred village is just the first of the atrocities the Americans face. Besides the forest pit, there are said to be at least two other mass graves in the hills and valleys nearby.

The grave sites were described independently by Muslim refugees from Vlasenica who fled between June and October that year and are living on the government side, scattered between Kladanj and Tuzla. They still cannot



*Thousands of Muslims may have been killed in a Serb-held village where witnesses recall bodies being stacked like logs, writes Stacy Sullivan*

enter a town that was once home to more Muslims than Serbs but is now occupied by Serbs alone. But their descriptions of where they say they saw bodies being dumped match what has been found.

Allegations that bodies were dumped in three mass graves around Vlasenica poses a new challenge to the Nato peace force. So far it has insisted it does not have a responsibility to guard or protect suspected mass graves. US intelligence has gathered extensive evidence that war crimes and mass burials did take place in the former Yugoslavia, most in Serb-held Bosnia. But spy

nudge him to take a more active stance. Last week, the Assistant Secretary of State, John Shattuck, toured execution and burial sites in Eastern Bosnia, particularly around Srebrenica.

Vlasenica, an aluminium

mining town 20 miles from Srebrenica, is like many towns in the area. It was never on a front-line, but many houses have been burnt. Where a mosque stood there is now a grassy hill. In April 1992, Serb forces swept brutally through, forcing thousands of Muslim to flee. Those who did not escape were captured and bussed out, killed, or taken to Susica where they were beaten, tortured or killed. The commander of the camp, Dragan Nikolic, has been indicted for war crimes, but roams freely in the town.

Refugees who identified the sites were found in towns across Bosnia. The largest site, four miles from the US camp, was identified independently by two men living in different towns who were part of a refugee column passing through Vlasenica on its way from Serb-held Cerska to government-held Kladanj.

The column was led by a 38-year-old metal worker now living in Tuzla. The man, who asked that his name should not be used, said the column of refugees was hiding in the forest just below the site of the dirt pit on October 29, 1992.

He insists Nato's sole task is to separate the former warring factions and create conditions for peace.

The political agenda of the American Government could

along the side of the road. They were men and women of different ages. As night fell, the man said the column of refugees ran up the hill and passed the bodies. "Some of them were cut in half, others were partially burnt," he said. "I will never forget those three days."

The man said a white summer house stood by the site, and that a blue trench digger was there. It still is — and a small white house, gutted and its roof destroyed, is there, too.

The second witness, Maso,

is a small dynamic man in his sixties who was in the refugee column. He said: "I was hiding with 35 other refugees by a stream below a dirt pit when I heard what sounded like a truck drive up. It was a tractor with a trailer and it

unloaded some cargo. I didn't know what the cargo was until that evening when we had to run past a pile of bodies."

"We had to run past a blue fork lift and a white summer house. I ran through the bodies up the hill. They were unloaded like logs. I said we should remember this spot because some day people should know what happened here."

Another site is about a mile from the US camp, at the foot of a Muslim cemetery, according to Ibran Osmannovic, a Susica survivor who has testified to the war crimes tribunal.

"On June 6, 1992, I and a few other prisoners had to bury 22 bodies in the Muslim graveyard. We had to dump them into a hole dug by a bulldozer."

The witness to a third site, a

spring on a dirt path less than a mile from Susica, said he saw a pit of bodies. Identified by the initials HC, he told local authorities that Serb soldiers came to his house on June 1 and took his father to Vlasenica police station. Hearing his father had been shot dead, HC asked two Serb brothers if they could help him find the body.

"On June 3 we went together and found the bodies — 33 of them — piled on a small hill

which connected to the main road where wood was until that evening when we had to run past a pile of bodies."

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"On June 3 we went together and found the bodies — 33 of them — piled on a small hill

"I feel like I was born again," said Amir Jasic, 24, as he arrived in Sarajevo. But Ferid Kukavica, tearfully welcoming back a comrade from his Bosnian Army unit, said: "You might think there would be a party tonight, but there are so many dead in the war from that unit I don't think there will be."

The three Bosnian factions pledged last week to free 645 registered prisoners from the 3½-year war under strong pressure from the United States and European Union.

## Joy and tears as prisoners freed

criminals. M Gauthier has also accused the Muslim-led Government of refusing the Red Cross access to a prison in Tuzla in central Bosnia, where it suspects a large number of Serbs are being held.

Nato and the Red Cross organised the handing over of prisoners at Sarajevo airport. Some of the freed men had been held at Vlasenica in eastern Bosnia.

The Serbs were due to set free a

total of 150 Muslim and Croat prisoners during the day, according to the Red Cross, but by dusk there was no word whether the others had been released. The Muslim-led Government released 76 prisoners in northern Bosnia, bringing the total well over 500.

M Gauthier also said the Bosnian Government was expected to free a handful of Serbs held in the eastern enclave of Gorazde.

"The Muslims were preparing to attack so we Serbs took the town without any bloodshed."

He added: "People in my building used to come to me and ask about the fate of missing men. They would ask me if they should stay and wait for them or if they should leave."

"I never knew what to tell them but I think those who left made the right decision."

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## EU will recognise Belgrade in face of American anger

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE European Union, led by Britain and France, is expected to recognise what remains of former Yugoslavia this week, in a move likely to provoke new friction between Whitehall and Washington.

The recognition of Serbia and Montenegro, which London hopes will come at the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers in Brussels today and tomorrow, is aimed at rewarding Belgrade for its role in the Dayton peace agreement.

The strategy will cause unease in Washington, however, where the US Administration is pursuing a policy of gradually easing sanctions against Belgrade in an attempt to press the regime of President Milosevic of Serbia to improve human rights in the Albanian-dominated province of Kosovo and elsewhere.

Recognition is also likely to be seen by Mr Milosevic, widely regarded as a key instigator of the wars in Croatia and Bosnia, as a sweeping victory in his battle to end his image as an international pariah.

Serbia and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia must first recognise one another before the EU's recognition goes ahead, but Western sources last night indicated that was almost certain to happen.

Although Western sources were confident that the European Union's Foreign Ministers would agree to the move this week, some European diplomats in Belgrade reportedly accused Britain and France of pursuing a policy independent of the EU.

Political sources in the capi-

tal of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, Skopje, confirmed that they were expecting mutual recognition between the two states to take place by today.

Milan Milutinovic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, was in Athens at the weekend to explain the move to Greece, which Athens said implied a claim on the northern Greek province, also called Macedonia.

Greece has been at odds with Skopje over the name of the southern Slav republic, which Athens said implied a claim on the northern Greek province, also called Macedonia.

London and Paris are leading the drive to recognise Belgrade because they want all the former Yugoslav republics to be treated the same, and because they believe international finance can be used as a lever against Belgrade if necessary in the future, Western sources said.

Rocket strikes on Kashmir kill 22 amid international concern over border clashes

## Nuclear arms race feared in Asia as India tests missile

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

CROSS-BORDER tensions are high in Kashmir after a weekend of intensive firing between Indian and Pakistani troops. The clashes, among the worst in years, came as India test-fired a new longer-range version of its Prithvi missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and plainly designed for deployment along the border with Pakistan.

Pakistan described development of the Prithvi as dangerous and said it would take steps to counter the threat. This may have been a reference to Chinese missiles that are believed to have been delivered to Pakistan but not deployed. The United States said at the weekend that deployment of the Prithvi could lead to South Asian arms race.

The heightened border tension came after the death of 22 people in rocket attacks on a village in Pakistan-controlled Azad (Free) Kashmir, which Pakistan claimed were launched by Indian forces. India denied this, saying Pakistani troops had fired the

weapons, which were aimed at Indian territory but went astray. India's border security force confirmed reports of heavy exchanges of fire that continued until early yesterday at 11 points across the line of control. The Pakistanis are firing non-stop and we are firing at them," a spokesman said. He claimed that the shooting was a cover for separatist Muslim militants infiltrating into Indian Kashmir from Pakistan. Most of the clashes died out yesterday.

There have been two Indo-Pakistani wars over Kashmir. The latest skirmishes are clearly not a prelude to another, given that smaller-scale clashes are almost routine and blow over without further incident. But the heightened tension is worrying, as both sides are modernising their armoury and are capable of using nuclear missiles. Neither was a nuclear power when they last went to war.

"There is no question of these incidents leading to a fully-fledged war," a spokesman for the Indian Army said. Most sections of the line of control were now peaceful.

Afzal Shaaban Mirani, Pakistan's Defence Minister, is using the customary warning that his country was prepared to meet any aggression from India but added that "we must not think that all recent happenings are leading towards another Pakistan-India war."

Thousands of people attended services on Saturday for those killed in the rocket explosions in the village of Kahuta. The weapons landed near a mosque, which was damaged. Many people were in the area to observe a "black day" marking Republic Day in India on Friday.

Sardar Abdul Qayum, prime minister of Azad Kashmir (a name not internationally recognised), told crowds: "We will go into trenches and defend every inch of Azad Kashmir."

The Prithvi missile has become a symbol of Indian technological pride. It was privately viewed by India with incredulity, given the decision by America to clear the way for the supply of arms worth \$368 million (£245 million) to Pakistan.



The longer-range version of India's Prithvi missile, on show in a Delhi parade to celebrate Republic Day

## Pakistan troops on high alert

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

PAKISTAN has put its troops on high alert and reinforced military security along the line of control in Kashmir.

A Pakistan army official claimed that troops destroyed one Indian army post on Saturday after retaliating against heavy firing from across the border.

President Leghari yesterday

day warned India that Pakistan would respond to the consistent cross-border firing. While visiting the site of the rocket attack in Kahuta, President Leghari ruled out threats of an all-out war between the two countries.

Emotions raged high in Pakistan-controlled Azad Kashmir and Pakistan as thousands of mourners buried their dead on in the small Kahuta mountain village

some six miles from the line of control. The funeral was led by Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan, President of Azad Kashmir, who called on Pakistanis to arm his people so they could defend themselves from cross-border attacks.

In Islamabad, hundreds of protesters chanting anti-Indian slogans marched to the Indian High Commission. Anti-Indian rallies were also held in Azad Kashmir.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Moi lifts law threat to press

Nairobi: President Moi has shelved two controversial draft Bills that would have severely restricted press freedom in Kenya (Soren Straus writes).

Facing a barrage of criticism from local journalists and international press freedom groups, Mr Moi ordered the draft legislation to be withdrawn, but only until further notice. "The intention was not to suppress the freedom of the press in Kenya," he said.

The Bills would require all journalists to be registered by government-controlled boards which would be able to fine, jail or "strike off" journalists and to ban publications.

### Germany marks Nazi atrocities

Bonn: Germany has held its first official national day of remembrance for the millions of Nazi victims.

The day chosen was the anniversary of the liberation by Soviet forces of the Auschwitz death camp in Poland on January 27, 1945. Ceremonies were held on the sites of former concentration camps in Germany including Buchenwald, Ravensbrück and Sachsenhausen. (AFP)

### State gets back Chun's £2.5m

Seoul: A former aide of jailed ex-President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea reportedly has turned £2.5 million given to him by the former leader over to the state.

Prosecutors, who charged the ex-President with bribery while in office from 1980 to 1988, said they had not yet decided what to do about the money as "it has no direct connection with criminal acts", newspapers said. (AFP)

### Kidnap cordon

Jakarta: The Indonesian military has tightened a blockade round a group of separatist rebels who are holding 13 hostages, including four Britons, in Iran Jaya, in order to prevent them from moving deeper into the jungle. (AP)

## Peking picks elite military unit to defend Hong Kong

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA said yesterday that it has completed the formation of People's Liberation Army forces to be stationed in Hong Kong after it reverts to Chinese rule in July 1997. Peking emphasised that the troops would be responsible for the defence of the territory and would not interfere with local affairs.

Sources say the troops are chosen from China's 42nd Army Group, considered one of the most prestigious units, and that they would number about 6,000, which is below the peak of British troop

strength in the territory. The Chinese say the army presence is to demonstrate sovereignty over the Hong Kong Special Administration Region, as the territory will be known, and "not to take part in battles".

Small navy and air force units will complete the Hong Kong garrison, probably under the command of Major-General Liu Zhenwu, who is in charge of their selection and training, sources in Hong Kong suggest. The future garrison will be under the direct command of the Central Military Commission but will report to the Canton military area command.

The joint announcement by the commission and the ruling State Council said that, although the troops would not interfere in local affairs, the region may, when necessary, ask the central Government for assistance from the garrison "in the maintenance of public order and in disaster relief". The troops' main responsibility will be to " safeguard state sovereignty, reunification and territorial integrity".

## China nets falcon poachers

Peking: Forest police in western China have seized 925 falcon poachers — many of them foreigners — and rescued more than 400 rare birds. The official Xinhua news agency said yesterday that many of the smugglers were from an unspecified neighbouring country, entering on tourist or business visas. The poachers transport the falcons to the Middle East where they command up to £33,000 each, the agency said. Most of the poachers were released after their prey was seized. (Reuters)

## Turkey admits reporter was beaten to death by police

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA

TURKEY has admitted that a journalist, found battered to death, died in police custody. An inquiry has led to the suspension of about 15 policemen in Istanbul and more people may be implicated.

The rare admission by Teoman Unuscan, the interior Minister, refutes an earlier official version of events which stated that Metin Goktepe, 27, a reporter for *Evensel*, a radical newspaper, died after bumping his head against a table in a tea garden.

Mr Unuscan offered a public apology to the family of Goktepe, whose body was found on January 9, and the Turkish press, which had been outraged at the cover-up. Witnesses had reported that Goktepe was covering a protest at a funeral of three prisoners killed by security forces in a prison riot when he was taken into custody.

Late last week Tansu Ciller, the acting Prime Minister, said publicly that other heads might roll; 34 more policemen are being investigated.

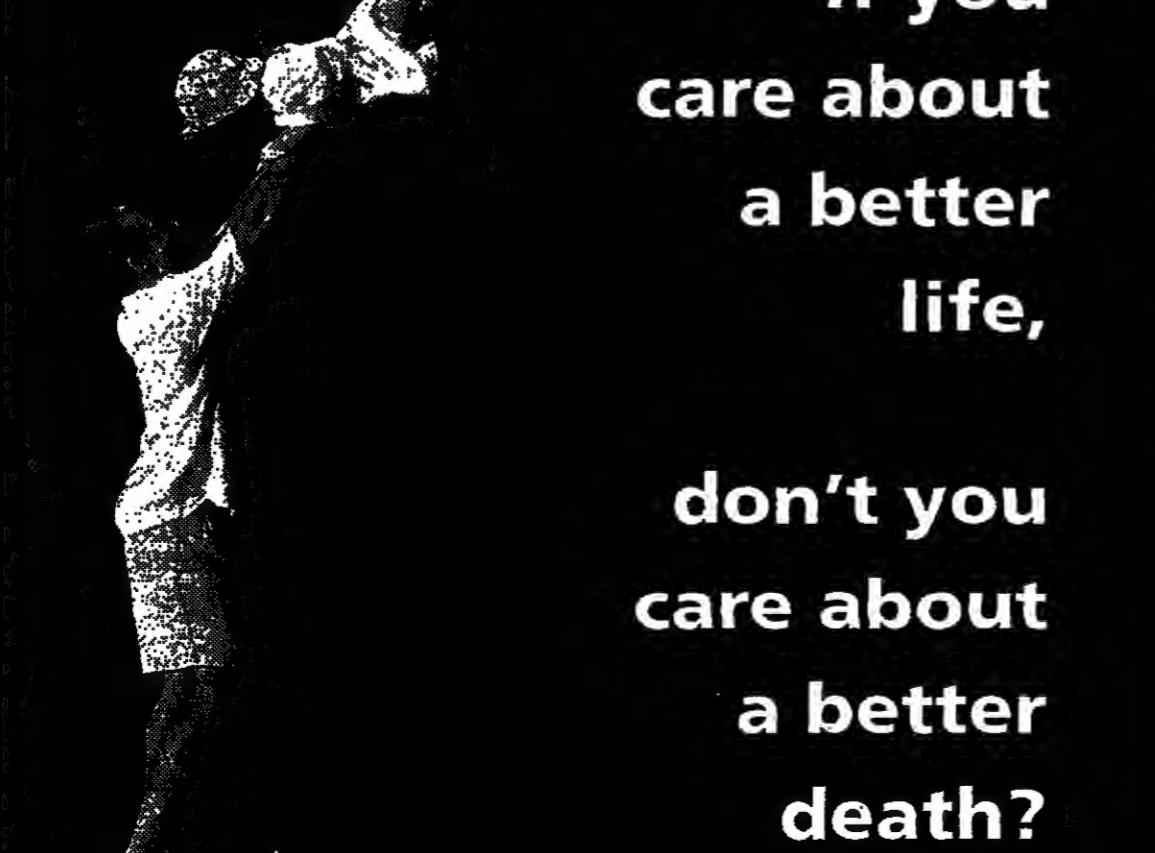
Yesterday Niluer Kuyas, a senior editor of *Milliyet*, a national newspaper, said: "We

all know these things happen. What is significant is that this is the first time it has really come out into the open."

Mesut Yilmaz, the leader of the Motherland Party, has publicly accused the police of torture. He may have been, in part, motivated to embarrass his rival, Mrs Ciller, among whose new band of MPs are several former police chiefs.

The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey alleges that 32 people have died under police interrogation in Turkey in 1994, the last year for which it has compiled figures.

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## Embers of doubt smoulder in the basement of mighty Maastricht edifice

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE'S Foreign Ministers meet in Brussels today for their first council of the year. All are intent on steering clear of the one topic that is stirring anguish and argument across the Union: the single currency.

With prophecies of doom from Britain and hand-wringing in the French political world, the EU's big Governments do not want to fan the embers of doubt in the basement of the Maastricht house. However, with the fumes of economic gloom growing thicker, all are wondering when someone will break and call the fire brigade.

For Helmut Kohl, the German

Chancellor and driving force behind the dream of union, and President Chirac of France, who sees union as preferable to a "German Europe", the ideal would be limited to joint action to boost confidence and growth, easing the pressure without tampering with the criteria for EMU membership. A "confidence pact" is in the works.

Since the slowdown means that France and even Germany may not meet the criteria, it seems likely that one of two options will have to be adopted: delay, or allow a flexible interpretation of the rules. This would make it easier to make the grade and would allow Paris to ease the deficit-cutting drive which is causing much of the country to

see Maastricht as an "Anglo-Saxon" plot to destroy the French soul with a brutal free market.

For federal thinkers outside Germany, "flexibility" is the lesser evil. The treaty, whose text holds sacred status in Brussels, does offer room for manoeuvre, but Germany is loath to allow anything that would make citizens even more reluctant to give up their beloved mark. Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French President and architect of the European Monetary System, caused a shock last week by urging the flexible approach, an idea already espoused by Edouard Balladur, the last Gaullist Prime Minister.

He was followed by Jean-Luc

Dehaene, Prime Minister of Belgium, whose country eagerly wants EMU but cannot meet the entrance test on national debt. Jacques Delors, the former Commission President, implicitly backed the idea, calling for political vision rather than economic quibbling.

Herr Kohl sounded a new warning over the weekend against anything that slowed the Maastricht timetable. "Anyone who wants a take a break, now should know that he could easily be bringing things to an end," he said.

Delay is seen as dangerous because, in the favourite cliché of the Commission, it would open Pandora's box and doom the whole project. Supporters include senior

politicians in Spain and Italy, eager EMU candidates that are unlikely to meet even generous criteria in 1999. A chunk of the directorate of the Bundesbank also favours delay rather than diluting the rules.

At the heart of the anguish is the underlying confusion over EMU's *raison d'être*. Is EMU the means to deeper political union, as desired by Germany and the federalists, or should it mainly be sold as a tool for economic efficiency? The United Europe pitch goes down well in Germany and in France, where 62 per cent still favour EMU despite the anti-austerity strikes. The efficiency argument is better suited to Britain and the Nordic states, which see sovereignty threatened

by monetary union. Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist who is manoeuvring to take Alain Juppé's prime ministerial seat in France, said: "We have to stop drowning ourselves in matters of method and deadlines that make us lose sight of the main point: do we want to build Europe or not?"

At the Commission, they acknowledge that EMU's fate will be sealed by politics, not percentage points on budget deficits. Sanier team officials argue that the globalising of some British ministers is premature. "They are underestimating the sheer will among the people who go through with this project," one said.

## Oxford dows see logic of stopping monetary clock

BY OLIVER AUGUST

ECONOMISTS at Oxford University have given weight to the growing feeling among government officials across Europe that monetary union will have to be postponed beyond 1999, the date set in the Maastricht treaty.

The treaty signatories face a stark choice between judging the economic criteria necessary to make a single currency work or delaying the creation of the single currency until at least core countries like Germany and France can meet the criteria, said James Forder, a lecturer on the subject at St Peter's College.

A delay has become increasingly likely as the latest economic figures show that last year Luxembourg was the only EU member meeting all the criteria, while a fudging of the criteria has encountered strong opposition from inflation-conscious Germany.

A solution to the looming 1999 deadline would be the time-honoured Brussels procedure of "stopping the clock". Mr Forder said: "They have done it before when time ran out during the common agricultural policy negotiations. At five to midnight they stopped the clock and just kept talking."

Worsening economic circumstances have made stopping the clock popular even in the most Europhile countries. "Postponement would suit virtually every EU member

now," said Andrea Boitho, a specialist in European economics at Magdalen College.

France could address its unemployment problem and Germany would hold on to the mark until the other currencies have drawn level with it, Mr Boitho said.

Even Italy, probably the most fervent proponent of monetary union, is warming to the idea of postponing it. Italy's present economic situation would otherwise preclude it from membership of a monetary union, as it does not meet any of the criteria agreed at Maastricht.

But a postponement does not necessarily entail abandoning the entire project. Chris Allsopp, editor of the *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, said: "Everything is looking worse now — if you are for a single currency. But a lot of people on the Continent still take the single currency for granted, just not on the present timetable."

While continental government officials have only privately admitted that the Maastricht timetable is unlikely to be met, fringe politicians have broken the official silence in the last week. Jacques Delors, the former Commission President, and Philippe Séguin, widely tipped as next French Prime Minister, have made their doubts about a single currency by 1999 known.



Jacques Chirac may call a second referendum on monetary union if the economy worsens

## Nation of sceptics force Kohl to keep bluffing

BY GEORGE BROCK  
EUROPEAN EDITOR

THE battle over the single currency has turned into a game of liar's poker. Can Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and President Chirac of France bluff their way through to 1999? Their assurances that the stiff requirements of the Maastricht treaty on deficits can and will be met sound less credible with each passing week.

The only real option Paris and Bonn have is to postpone the 1999 date for the start of the currency. That may turn out to be the same as cancelling the entire enterprise. Even though Herr Kohl looks like running for re-election in 1998, it may be beyond even his powers to convert enough

again. But they are nervous of saying so out loud: to be publicly against monetary union in Germany is to risk being thought hostile to Europe, which is close to declaring yourself in favour of aggressive nationalism and war. Yet private doubt is hollowing out support for Germany's European policy.

When the Prince of Wales visited Hamburg last May, he lunched with local businessmen. At the end of a conversation about monetary union, a head count of votes for and against was taken. None of the German businessmen was in favour. "Last year I would have said to you that I was 70 per cent in favour of Europe," a businessman said to me in Dresden. "Now I would say that I am 60 per cent against."

The Germans think that Herr Kohl, dominating his country's politics from its prosperous Rhineland capital, will not alter course. To many of them, Bonn seems a remote galaxy. "As long as Kohl is the captain of Starship Bonn, there will be no change," said one observer.

But Herr Kohl's convictions are no longer shared elsewhere. Neither Spain nor Italy, both far from qualifying for a single currency, would object if monetary union was put on the back-burner. Attempts to discourage French politicians, bankers and pundits from complaining about the single currency have failed. Emmanuel Todd, the influential French social scientist, caused a sharp intake of breath recently by comparing the French Government's

slavish copying of German monetary rigour to the Vichy period. "Since France started the servile imitation of German policy, rather than dealing with it as a normal country, they have both been paralysed."

President Chirac is trapped in a commitment to a single currency which he may well not believe in, but which he cannot withdraw from without a huge fall of the franc and terminal damage to France's postwar policy of trying to contain German power.

Because of that, M Chirac and Herr Kohl will struggle on with a twin-track strategy. They will try to organise an orderly postponement of the Maastricht deadline, hoping economic growth will pick up again and improve the odds.



William Rees-Mogg, page 16

travellwise

As the saying goes, "You can't please all of the people, all of the time". But given that it costs five times as much to gain a new customer as it does to keep an existing one, it pays to hang onto them. A Freefone Customer Careline can help. It's an easy way for people to get in touch with you. Whether it's to ask for advice, make suggestions on improving your service or even let off steam. A Careline also shows you value customer's opinions, that your company is prepared to listen. In fact, a recent survey found that 82% of customers are likely to re-order with you again if their complaint is successfully dealt with. For more information on your own Customer Careline, talk to us on 0800 800 800.

Work smarter,  
not just harder

BT

## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### ■ VISUAL ART

**The Saatchi Gallery**  
goes talent-spotting  
across the Atlantic  
with a show of  
young Americans  
OPEN: Now  
REVIEW: Tomorrow



**■ RECITAL**  
The British pianist  
Malcolm Birns  
celebrates his  
sixtieth birthday  
at the Wigmore Hall  
CONCERT: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



**■ THEATRE**  
Curtain up at  
the Barbican for  
Simon Callow's new  
staging of *Les  
Enfants du Paradis*  
FIRST NIGHT: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



**■ MUSIC**  
Michael Nyman  
brings his operatic  
version of *The  
Tempest* to the  
Festival Hall  
CONCERT: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday

DONALD COOPER

### LONDON

**COMMUNICATING DOORS** Angus Thorne explores Ayckbourn's ingenious amp-travel play, fleeing from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of years. A truly funny and sometimes nail-bitingly suspenseful comedy. *Saway*, Strand, WC2 (0171-839 8888). Open tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 8pm. £5.

**TWO TRAINS RUNNING** Opening night for the latest of August Wilson's dialogue of plays about a divided America. The two parts of the sprawling east including Jerry Lacy, Tony Armstrong and George Hants. *Tricycle*, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-900 1000). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm and 9pm. £5.

**BIRTHDAY HIGHLIGHT** Melvyn Bragg, one of the grand masters of the piano, celebrates 40 years of performing and his 60th birthday with a programme devoted to Chopin. *Three Associates*, Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-835 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. £12.

**ELSEWHERE** *EDINBURGH*: Last week of performances for *The Silver Steamer*, Tony Kaper's modern Scottish classic.

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**THE GHOST MACHINIST**: *Memphis* (0171-839 8888)

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## ■ OPERA

The centenary of Puccini's *La Bohème*, celebrated with a new staging at the Albert Hall  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday



## ■ FILM

Victor Hugo, but not as we know it: a movie version of *Les Misérables* takes liberties  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



## ■ JAZZ

Veteran Italian singer and composer Paolo Conte gives his only British concert at the Barbican  
GIG: Saturday  
REVIEW: Next week



## ■ BOOKS

Spying for the KGB: the bizarre story of Aldrich Ames is recounted in a racy biography  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS  
TUESDAY TO  
FRIDAY  
IN SECTION 2

Marcus Binney on how lottery money should be used to preserve and improve our public spaces

# A green and pleasant land?

**C**ity parks are the new beneficiaries of National Lottery largesse. Today, the Heritage Lottery Fund will announce a nationwide programme of £50 million over three years aimed at jump-starting town councils in a race for funds. With parks, the trustees are including town squares, seaside promenades, gardens, cemeteries, even the Town Moor in Newcastle.

Anyone visiting the great tent at the Chelsea Flower Show and admiring the fantastic displays of carpet bedding put on by Birmingham and Torquay might be forgiven for asking what the problem is.

But problem there is. A harrowing joint report by the Garden History Society and the Victorian Society in 1993 found "local authorities in near despair as parks which were attractive places only four or five years ago fall into accelerating decline".

The superb 1872 Gothic memorial fountain in Kelvin Grove Park, Glasgow, was restored in 1988 at a cost of £158,000, only to be vandalised again. At Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich, the boathouse restored in 1990 at a cost of £70,000 was burnt down three years later.

Some councils have seen parks as rundown land providing opportunities for quick-fix deals with developers. "This park was erected by public subscription and destroyed by corporate intrigue" proclaimed a plaque erected in Penn Inn Park at Newton Abbot. Worcester council tried to justify building a supermarket in Cripplegate Park, saying: "People just 'walked through it'. To vandalism must be added fears about safety. A report by Comedia, the arts consultancy, asks: "Is the keepers park like the unstaffed railway station, the poorly lit underground car park and the deserted town centre at night, going to become yet another ghost zone of modern Britain?"

It all began, says the Victorian Society, during the Second World War, when cast-iron park railings and gates were torn up as part of Lord Beaverbrook's campaign to bring home the message of total war to the masses. Park keepers were evicted from their Victorian lodges; parks could no longer be kept secure. Yet when these parks were



The Palm House in Sefton Park, Liverpool: local people have raised money to protect the 100-year-old structure; the lottery could finish the job

first created, they were one of the wonders of Britain. Americans arriving by steamer at Liverpool would do their first sightseeing in Birkenhead Park, designed by the great Sir Joseph Paxton. Frederick Law Olmsted later said Birkenhead was the inspiration for his Central Park in New York.

Public paths, like public baths, libraries and museums, were part of a great Victorian drive to improve living standards in cities. John Ruskin wrote: "The measure of any great civilisation is its cities and a measure of a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares." Northern Industrial towns took the lead. The most ambitious Victorian parks were laid out in cities such as Halifax, Liverpool, Manchester and Preston. Leading garden designers such as John Claudius

Loudon, Edward Milner, Thomas Mawson and Paxton were to work.

For all their problems, parks remain popular. Today some 40 per cent of the population use parks regularly — as many as eight million people a day. The first role for lottery funds must be to reinstate the lost beauty of these parks. Too many once-fine city parks look little more than playing fields scattered with trees. "Layouts have gradually been adapted to suit the convenience of tractors and mowers," says Comedia.

In Berlin, brilliant work has been done by the landscape architect Michael Seller at Gleneau Park. By careful excavation, he first found the foundations of the original meandering paths, then he raised the hillocks to provide the points of view originally intended. Pains-taking garden

archaeology is the key to effective restoration. Without it money can be badly spent.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is willing to support the purchase of land where appropriate. But the Millennium Commission needs to join forces and encourage the creation of wholly new parks.

One of the most exciting I have seen recently is a park in Barcelona created on the site of an old factory, retaining walls, columns and arches to provide shade, shelter and surprise.

Fresh thought needs to be given to the role of architecture in parks. Local councils often neglect fine country houses that came with parks, believing them to be out of place.

Regency Elswick Hall in Newcastle was demolished. Grovelands in Southgate, north London, nearly went the same way. Yet, as Comedia

points out, parks are excellent places for a range of cultural and community buildings. The little-used mansion in Gunnersbury Park, in west London, should be top of the list.

Good projects are already underway. At Sefton Park in Liverpool, a group of Friends is tackling the magnificent ornamental Palm House which opened 100 years ago and has fallen into complete decay. They have raised £40,000 to make it safe. Now the Friends are looking for £1 million to complete the project. Impossible? Perhaps not — English Heritage has promised £300,000, the EC is financing a business plan and may chip in another third, and the Heritage fund could close the financial gap.

But the stark fact remains that much of the lottery investment will be at risk unless

security in many parks is dramatically improved. The safest parks are the royal parks in London because they have their own police force. 200 strong. Wandsworth and Holland Park have their own police too. Now Greenwich Park has joined them.

David Welch, the director of the royal parks, encourages his police to walk, ride and cycle around the parks.

"People will talk to you spontaneously if you are on the platform, one constable says. "And it does wonders these days for the public to see we are flesh and blood."

Park users around Britain should urge local councils to follow London's lead. Lord Rothschild, the chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund, could just find that the restoration of ornamental park lodges proves to be the best investment of all.

ALL that is needed to stage Poulen's last opera, *La Voix humaine*, is a period telephone and a bed or chaise longue for the sole protagonist to recline on. Given those things, it can be as effective in the concert hall as anywhere else.

This performance in the Butterworth Hall might have been stronger in a more intimate space. On the other hand, the orchestra would have been confined to the pit rather than arrayed on the platform, as was on this occasion, on equal terms with the soprano soloist.

It takes a situation such as this, and a conductor with the acute dramatic awareness of Sir Charles Mackerras, not only to demonstrate how eloquent the orchestra is, but also to reveal how involved the composer is in the process of moral collapse. For Jean Cocteau in 1930, *La Voix humaine* was a tour de force of extended monologue. For Poulen in 1958, it was a confrontation with depression.

For the soprano who performs it, *La Voix humaine* is both those things at once. It is a recitative of thousands of words within 40 minutes of music. It is also a public experience of intense emotional stress. Sustaining a vocal line which is nothing more than an extension of the natural rhythms and inflections of speech in a crisis. Felicity Lott gave a disturbing performance.

Before the interval Mackerras had conducted the RPO in three works by Ravel. There was no lack of lyrical charm in the *Pavane pour une Infante défunte* or in the *Tombé de Couperin*, but *La Valse* is a different matter. Certainly, the first half is as engaging and sensuous as he and the orchestra made it. The second half is more obsessive and ultimately destructive: it needs to be set on its vertiginous career much earlier than it was here.

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## Now is the winter of our content

**N**o need to beat about the bush. This was quite simply, some of the finest singing the Wigmore Hall has heard in the past ten years. The voice, the mind and the imagination belonged to the young tenor Ian Bostridge.

On the bleakest of midwinter nights, he took his audience on two winter journeys: Schubert's in his great last song cycle, and Britten's on the Great Western, in the company of Thomas Hardy and his *Winter Words*. It was a remarkable ending to the Wigmore Hall's four-month series of The Britten Songs; and thank goodness Radio 3 was there to record it — such a fusion of youthfulness of voice with freshness of instinct, emotional urgency with quickness of intellect, is rare indeed.

Schubert was the same age — barely 30 — when he wrote *Winterreise*; and it is only frost which silvers the hair of the poet's young Wanderer. So Bostridge and his accompanist, Julius Drake, set out with a brisk, light tread along the snowy path. But horror follows hard on the traveller's heels. Within long, concentrated lines of song, Bostridge would yelp through a wail of pain — at the wind's lashing, at his staring reflection in the stream.

Schubert's melodic line frequently took on a new strength and intensity. At times Bostridge would uncover the heart of a folk song beating in Schubert's writing, at others he would momentarily withdraw all vibrato from his voice, leaving it as white and matt as the winter sky.

At *Einsamkeit*, that song of aching loneliness halfway through the cycle, Bostridge's performance ended. This was

### REVIEW

Ian Bostridge  
Wigmore Hall

partly in order to accommodate the Britten, but also to offer the rare experience of Schubert's original cycle of just 12 songs, starting and ending, as this performance did, in the same key. Only later did the composer discover and set more poems — and there is still some debate about the ordering of the whole.

Bostridge's journey had its own convincingly self-contained character. And one knew, from the way he and Drake wrestled with its final wretchedness, what we would be in for in that last repeated question of "How long, how long?" in Britten's cycle.

This final poem, *Before Life and After*, can read like a painful — and painfully wordy — Hardy whinge. Britten's music, though, elevates it to a real lament for human existence and it is impossible not to hear Britten's own responses to *Winterreise* pulsing through the cycle as a whole. Bostridge dipped and dived with the waggish. With all the story of this little satire alive in the words, he had no need for coy visual performing.

As if this were not enough, Bostridge and Drake also performed Britten's *Um Mitternacht*, four of Goethe's poems set by Schubert and still had strength enough and time — just — for two encores including Schubert's *Abschied*. Bostridge must not live up to the inscription in the score ("from the heart — may it go again to the heart").

**B**eethoven wrote the *Missa solemnis* for the installation of his friend and patron Archduke Rudolph as Archbishop of Olmütz in Moravia. He missed the deadline by three years and was unable to attend the only full performance in his lifetime (St Petersburg, 1824).

For professional musicians, its complexities are notorious.

Karajan recorded it four times, and even he admitted publicly that it is a very difficult work to direct.

Three of Karajan's versions are still available from DG and EMI and all betray serious musical

problems (not necessarily the composer's) with their elongated tempos, veiled textures and fake religious atmosphere.

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Most of the over 18 recordings using large forces are not much better. An outstanding exception is Toscanini (RCA GD 6022), who turns the arcane Bachian devices of Beethoven's fugal choruses into a kind of divine madness.

Another is Klemperer's justly famous version with the New Philharmonia Chorus and Orchestra (EMI CMS 7 69532-2), with its powerful choral presence and telling musical detail.

Also worth considering are Bernstein's energetic 1960 recording (Sony Classical SMZK 47522), hampered only by an acoustically challenged chorus, and Levine's operatic reading with mezzo-soprano soloists (DG 435 702-2), which tries to live up to the inscription in the score ("from the heart — may it go again to the heart").

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**SPECIAL REPORT ON**  
*Sleep*

Day One of a two-part series on the mystery that rules a third of our life

TOMORROW

A guide to the latest cures for the sleepless

# Science closes in on riddle of insomnia

**D**iving into the brain has given scientists the best insight into what happens during sleep. From the discovery in 1953 that sleep was composed of REM (rapid eye movement) and non-REM sleep, and that each caused a distinctive pattern of electrical activity in the brain, the most exciting research has focused on the workings of this complex organ.

The foremost centre for work in Europe is the Sleep Research Laboratory at Loughborough University, headed by Professor James Horne. He has shown that the area of the brain most clearly connected with sleep is the frontal area of the cerebral cortex. This busy part of the brain is responsible for speech, short-term memory and flexible thinking.

"Our bodies relax during the day but not our brains, and the frontal area of the cerebral cortex is most in need of relaxation," says Professor Horne. Interestingly, a form of schizophrenia is associated with the same area of the brain, and Professor Horne recently wrote in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* of his discovery that symptoms shown by sleep-deprived people and schizophrenics coincide.

Inevitably, the brain and the

**Anjana Ahuja**  
explains the complex controls which are locked within our brains

processes within it have provided the basis of the newest theory of why we sleep. Dr James Krueger, from the University of Tennessee in Memphis, believes that since sleep involves nerve cells, it must require the use of the junctions between neighbouring nerve cells. Many of these junctions, called synapses, lie almost dormant during wakefulness. Therefore, sleep exercises the synapses. His paper appeared last month in the journal *Behavioural Brain Research*.

"Synapses, which allow signals to pass between nerve cells, are not permanent entities. They are like plastic, and sleep organises that plasticity in some way," says Dr Krueger. He adds that this theory implies that both REM and non-REM sleep contribute to this plasticity. This echoes the theory of sleep favoured by Francis Crick, the co-discoverer of DNA.

An understanding of sleep in

neural terms begs the question of what sequence of chemical changes on the brain causes us to sleep. The substances most closely linked with sleep fall into two main groups — hormones and neurotransmitters. Early studies showed that serotonin, the best-known neurotransmitter, is essential for sleep because if nerve cells containing it are destroyed the result is insomnia.

This question has been considered by Dr Krueger. "We looked at a chemical called growth hormone-releasing hormone (GHRH), which is found in the area of the brain regulating sleep," he says. "If you give this hormone to humans they sleep longer than they normally would, and if you deprive them they sleep less."

But the connection between GHRH and sleep is, according to Dr Krueger, just one link in a chain of chemical interactions. Nitric oxide is involved somewhere, he believes, since inhibiting nitric oxide in the brain causes sleep deficiency and increasing it causes the subject to sleep more. Altering the amount of a substance called interleukin 1 has the same effect.

Another approach which has yielded fascinating results is sleep deprivation. Dr Allan Rechtschaffen, from the Sleep Research

**A jumbo disturbs us less than a baby's cry**

**A** mother is more likely to wake to the cry of her child than to a jumbo jet roaring overhead, according to research into the relationship between sleep and noise.

A restless partner or a barking dog also seem to affect a good night's sleep more than living under a noisy flightpath.

Hearing is the one sense that cannot be shut down during sleep, and so without earplugs any external noise is registered by the brain and matched by a quickening of the heartbeat. Even so, Professor James Horne, from the Sleep Research Laboratory, believes that the body can be far more resilient to continual noise than we imagine and is able to adapt to it.

A study into the effects of aircraft noise by researchers from Loughborough, Manchester Metropolitan and Southampton universities tested 400 people who lived near airports. They were monitored as they slept with instruments which measured their level of bodily activity and disturbance through the night.



Sleep study at Stanford University, California

The study found that while many people thought they had often been disturbed by the aircraft, on average they awoke fully only once every ten days, no matter which airport they lived near. "On the whole, people were not even aroused," Professor Horne says. "This indicates

the body's ability to adapt to noise during sleep." Bed partners and children are more likely to wake you up, he says. "And we also found that younger women were more disturbed by the cries of children than their partners. Men's sleep was generally more disturbed overall, however."

The study also showed that the body differentiated between sudden and continuous noise. "A car door slamming is likely to wake you up, whereas a train or plane builds its noise up slowly," Professor Horne says.

Dr Ken Hume, principal lecturer of human physiology at Manchester Metropolitan University, is investigating the relationship between noise and bodily arousal that may not result in waking.

"Our heart rate and muscles respond to noise in our sleep. We constantly move around," he says. "But we don't know how significant these small bodily changes are."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

Nature's clock  Sleepy cells... and dreaming computers

## What makes life tick

EVERY creature, from a single-celled bacterium to a human being, has a clock that beats out an insistent daily rhythm. Thanks to this inbuilt chronometer, plants know when to spread their leaves and human beings when to go to sleep.

Scientists have tried for decades to identify how the clock works. Understanding it is basic research, but ultimately their work might help to cure some forms of insomnia, or identify ways of dealing with jet lag.

The clock certainly does not depend on the daily cycle of night and day, although the cycle may provide a means of resetting it from time to time. That was proved long ago by a botanist, Karl Hamner, who took plants and animals to the South Pole, spun them in the opposite direction to the Earth's rotation, and found that their rhythms persisted.

Recently a team from the United States has helped to unravel the operation of the clock in fruit flies, by isolating a gene called timeless, or

time for short. In flies with a mutation in this gene, the circadian rhythms go awry. This gene is not the first to be found — more than 20 years ago a similar gene, named per, for period, was also discovered in fruit flies.

Both per and timeless affect the rhythms, but neither on its own is enough to create a clock. The fact that the production of the per protein goes up and down on a 24-hour cycle, as it does, could be effect rather than cause.

Like all genes, the job of

time and per is to carry the

recipe for their own proteins.

The evidence is that the two

proteins work together to

control their own production.

Per protein accumulates in the cytoplasm — the region of the cell outside the nucleus where the genes are found. At a certain moment, per combines with timeless, and is thereby enabled to enter the nucleus and turn off its own production. The theory, which comes from Dr Michael Young and colleagues at Rockefeller University, is that per on its own is unstable, so cannot build up to a sufficient level unless it binds with timeless, which stabilises it.

That explains why the process causes oscillation. The gene can be turned off only when per has bound to timeless, by which time quite a lot of per has been produced. Without this two-stage process, cells would simply settle at an intermediate level of per production, with no rhythmic oscillation.

There is still plenty to explain, such as how the clock regulates other cells, and how it can be reset. But it is a striking step forward in a bewildering field.

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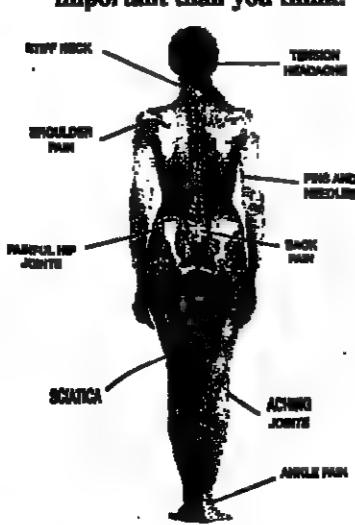
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If one of these states represents wakefulness, and the other sleep, the result implies that both are needed to train the brain effectively. Each makes the other better until they both work well. So perhaps the brain learns by a dialogue between different levels that takes place both awake and asleep.

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T24

## A switch in our heads

DROPPING off to sleep sometimes feels like turning a switch. In fact, according to recent research from Harvard Medical School and the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, that is exactly what it is like.

Dr Clifford Saper and colleagues have identified a group of nerve cells in the region of the brain called the hypothalamus which, unlike

the rest, become more active when we go to sleep. This, they believe, is because these cells are a kind of master-switch which functions by turning off the arousal systems in the brain.

The researchers found that cells in the ventrolateral preoptic area of the hypothalamus are linked to other cells which are the source of the neurotransmitters histamine, norepinephrine and serotonin. These are all involved in alertness, which is why anti-histamine pills cause drowsiness.

People who cannot easily fall asleep, says Dr Saper, may have a fault in this master-switch.

## Perchance to dream...

A computer that can sleep has thrown new light on the process of dreaming, suggesting that it is essential to making sense of the world.

Dr Geoffrey Hinton and colleagues from the University of Toronto built two neural nets — computers based on the brain — and wired them together in an analogy of the cortex. the

part of the brain responsible for sight and conscious thought.

They then taught the system to recognise patterns. It worked best if the net used to turn pictures into representations was used to train the net used to turn the representations back into pictures — and vice versa.

If one of these states represents wakefulness, and the other sleep, the result implies that both are needed to train the brain effectively. Each makes the other better until they both work well. So perhaps the brain learns by a dialogue between different levels that takes place both awake and asleep.

## From Toxteth to the Sahara



### THE TES GOING PLACES OUT FRIDAY

This Friday The Times Educational Supplement publishes Going Places, a 48-page magazine bursting with ideas and inspiration for all kinds of school trips.

We follow twenty five students from an inner-city comprehensive in Liverpool as they travel 8,000 miles overland to the western Sahara.

From farms to historical sites, from ancient China to David Hockney, Going Places is packed with information on every type of venue.



YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT

# From Romo to Como, it's hip again to be romantic or square

**T**he golden age of tartan and peroxide has returned to the clubs. Giles Coren on the latest nostalgia on the dance floor

IT WAS not until the second synthesised bass chord of *Vive To Kill* had shuddered out of the walls that the skinny kid with PVC trousers, asymmetric make-up and glitter-sprinkled cheekbones got up from his chair. He emptied his beer and flicked his girlish quiff from his face with manicured, long-nailed fingers.

On the dance floor he adopted a crucifixion pose: head bowed to his chest, legs crossed at the ankles and arms outspread, with fingers pointing to the sky. The dance was all narrative: for "view" he shaded his eyes with his white hands, for "kill" he fired an imaginary revolver. His lips told the story in time with each of Simon Le Bon's silvery words.

He had come a long way from Britpop, with its scruffy sweaters, honest guitar-led melodies, social realism and frenetic dance moves. He had bought wholesale into London's latest retro explosion, Romo.

**R**omo is a resuscitation of the New Romantic "movement" — that golden age of tartan and peroxide before pop got a conscience, which was born with Roxy Music's first album in 1972 and reached its apogee at the turn of the 1980s with Duran Duran, ABC, Spandau Ballet and Culture Club.

Since the very beginning, pop-pickers have hopped between grimy authenticity and up-beat Technicolor-style flattery. At the birth of rock'n'roll, girls in bobby socks ready-boogied to Bill Haley in defiance of their Perry Como-loving parents. In the 1960s, the Rolling Stones saw that the Beatles were nicely dressed and pretty — and reacted by being ugly and scruffy. Then came the seriousness of 1970s progressive rock, tempered by the frivolity of disco and Gary Glitter's glam rock, itself stamped out by the rawness and ripped T-shirts of Punk.

The first New Romantics reverted to a heavily produced sound, and dressed up, instead of down, but in 1985 Live Aid ushered in a new age of grungy realism. So after ten years of "honesty", from Annie Lennox and Mick Hucknall to Oasis, it is hardly surprising that clubbers are returning to the electronic sound and fancy dress of Romo, tipped by *Melody Maker* to see off Britpop in 1996.

At Arcadia, a weekly Romo club at Madame Jojo's in Soho, the clothes are as extravagant as ever. "It is all about



The new New Romantic revival is pure gold for nightclubs such as the Arcadia, which are buzzing with the old hits of the 1980s

fun," says a 34-year-old who identifies himself as Blaze. "The first time around I loved the music but was too young to go to the clubs. Until now I just raved like anyone else, but I would always dress beautifully and think futuristic, and we started bands that fused a trip-hop mentality with Martin Fry haircuts. The clothes often come from my sister, who was a hardcore Duran Duran. But the Byron shirt is mine and so are the PVC trousers and monk boots."

After an hour or so of Kraftwerk, Human League, and Visage, the first live act appears. Sin With Sebastian involves a skinny blond Frenchman wrapped in kitchen foil and a podgy girl in Louis XVI costume miming "shut up, and sleep with me... over and over again. And the dancers who vogued quite happily to Gary Numan stand silent. According to *Melody Maker*, however, it is likely, to be this year's biggest seller.

"It's not what I came for," says a man in a blue boob tube



Blitzed: Steve Strange

have to say, we know already." His name is Keith and he works as an exhaust fitter in Bromley.

"The ladies wouldn't bat an eyelid if they saw me," he says. "It isn't like being in the closet — it's performance, it's my social life. But I don't dress like

this when I'm under a Volvo." The clothes, the make-up, the androgyny all contribute to an atmosphere that is appropriately *fin de siècle* — but it seems strangely out of touch in the self-aware 1990s: New Romance, indeed, was the last great explosion of camp into the mainstream before Aids.

"I don't look like a girl," says a 19-year-old called Jim, who looks like a girl. "I am an androgynous. And I am neither gay nor straight. I am homosexual."

The problem, as explained by an aged specimen called Lee (a veteran of Steve Strange's Blitz club in Covent Garden, heart of the first New Romantic wave) is this: "In the old days we wore frilly shirts and tight boots to dress up as Romantics, you know, like Byron. This lot are dressed as New Romantics — it's a revival of a revival. It's just a lot of rubbish dream up by the music press to give themselves something new to play with."

Unfortunately for Lee, his very presence at Arcadia went some way to validating the movement he scorned. Dancing expressively to the oldies and waving a quite spectacular flick, he was one of the few who had got it, retrospectively speaking, right. For most of the clubbers were so recently out of thin V-neck jerseys and jeans that their pouting-bowl haircuts had not had time to grow into anything flickable (the Princess of Wales circa 1981 is the ideal), nor had they quite assimilated the studied posing of Lee and his entourage to their gleeful bouncing — a dance *non grata* in Romo.

But, with a little more time, and careful observation of the period slide-show that lights up one of Arcadia's walls, they will soon breathe new life into the dinosaur, and perhaps even come up with something new.

To recapture the mood they must heed the anathemic advice of Spandau Ballet's greatest hit: they must always believe in their soul, they have the power to know, they're indestructible. They are gold.

Unfortunately for Lee, his

family planning clinic by a nurse from the psychiatric unit. No consent had been asked for because it was accepted that Louise was not able to give it.

The doctor was upset to discover that she had not been told there was parental opposition, or that there was legal action pending. The staff had told her, she said, that Louise was sexually vulnerable, and the only way to protect her without contraception was to guard her at all times, and they didn't have the staff or time to do that.

We are now going ahead with court action and we have lodged a formal complaint about the actions of the psychiatrist and the unit staff.

Mental illness in your child is very hard to bear, but what has made it more difficult is the patronising arrogance of the mental health staff we have come in contact with. They always know best and any questions about treatment or attempts at discussion are regarded as inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

It is as if they cannot understand that there is not necessarily a genetic link. We, too, are regarded as mentally ill and unable to give or withhold consent. It is inverted prejudice, and every bit as

**I**n with the out crowd: Exploring the club scene where cheesy is cool and Burt has never been away

THE EASY listening boom, the worship of Burt Bacharach, Mike Flowers clubs such as Indigo and City Cheese — is it for real, or is someone having us on?

Without witnessing this phenomenon at first hand, the irony is a little too hot to handle. But downstairs at Cort's Wine Bar in Holborn, central London, last Saturday, initiates of City Cheese were giving it to use a suitable cheesy term, the full monty.

Cheese, to the modern clubber, is anything their parents would not tell them to turn down or take off. A girl who comes downstairs dressed for a night at City Cheese is likely to be told by her mother: "I hope you think you're going out in that." The music which 1950s musicians fled to create rock'n'roll is back. Perry Como is in. It really is hip to be square.

The tune that greeted my arrival was a far cry from the familiar mind-numbing throb of gansta rap or gabba techno:

"Where? There on the stair." sang the sound system. "a little mouse with clogs on..."

Men in tight Pringle jumpers, reminiscent of Alan Partridge, danced with girls in gold lame evening dresses. Others, in their mid-to-late twenties, drank beer or cocktails and wore lounge suits with open shirts, although the true hardcore went for broad-check suits with dark brown

shirts and wide ties. There were no trainers or bottles of mineral water. The atmosphere was unsettlingly nice.

There was karaoke, a complementary fax machine for sending cheesy messages, and a bucket in which to drop your business card for the champagne prize draw. And the irony? Was way behind. For a start the emcee was called Fred Leicester, a joke lost on me until someone



Square: Dolores Gray, Perry Como

drew my attention to it.

I wondered what level of self-awareness was operating. "Everyone knows what they're doing," said John, a 28-year-old diehard easy-listener. "They would have been embarrassed to do this five years ago, but now it is perfect."

As he spoke, the theme tune from *Hawaii Five-O* boomed into action. We had Herb Alpert, the Carpenters, *Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head*, the Milk Tray advert.

It must be said, there were a lot of very square people at City Cheese. The sort who once danced to *You're The One That I Want* and stayed in to watch *The Sky At Night*. Suddenly there is a place for them to go. But then again, the revival of 1970s hip means that bad sports coats and man-made fabrics are cool again. So is the bloke with the polyester shirt and Prince Harry haircut a genuine dweeb? Or is he right there at the cutting edge of cool?

GILES COREN

## GLOSSARY OF POP

**Britpop:** A manifestation of British popular music harking back to the bare essentials of the Stones and the Beatles. Fans are usually young, smelly and stoned.

**Grunge:** A kind of music whose fans look and smell like Britpop fans, but began in Seattle and are now mostly dead.

**Trip-hop:** A British club phenomenon of dislocated character, notoriously difficult to dance to.

**Gabba Techno:** Repetitive heart-stopping beat with a sound overlayed not unlike the hiss of an unturned television. *Voguing:* A form of dancing popularised by Madonna, which mimics catwalk models.

**Martin Fry:** ABC lead singer, famed for his flicked hair.

**Oasis Exponents:** like Blur and Pulp, of Britpop (qv).

**Cheese:** Unfashionable music enjoyed with a combination of irony and genuine pleasure.

**Blitz:** Steve Strange

**Lee:** A veteran of Steve Strange's Blitz club in Covent Garden, heart of the first New Romantic wave.

**Pringle:** A brand of knitwear.

**Alan Partridge:** A character from the BBC television series *Bottom*.

**Indigo:** A London club.

**City Cheese:** A London club.

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Matthew Parris



■ The case against homosexuals in the Armed Forces may be strong — but we have heard it before

Last Tuesday, a powerful leading article appeared in the *Daily Mail*: "Listed to the fighting men". It addressed a controversy on which the Commons Select Committee on Defence will soon report: should known homosexuals be allowed to serve in our Armed Forces.

The argument cannot be brushed aside. Soldiers, sailors and airmen, the editorial pointed out, "do not want to serve with declared gays". They are concerned about the problems of physical proximity for men who have to live and sleep in barracks, or below decks. They worry about the cohesiveness of units under the stress of battle.

The *Daily Mail* also reminded readers of its publication last November of a letter (presumably leaked) from Sir Hugo White, the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, to the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater.

Why, Sir Hugo had asked, should the Armed Forces "mirror society, when their conditions of service are so different"? In defence matters, political correctness should be resisted, he said

(a view endorsed by the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, at his Tory conference).

Known homosexuals, Sir Hugo continued, would be made miserable "by ridicule and bullying". He warned that any attempts to lift the ban would devastate discipline and morale, damage the services' fighting ability, and hit recruitment.

I recognise the force of this line of argument. If we are to answer it, we must first acknowledge what Michael Foot once called "the high ground" of the reasoning we oppose.

Its central contention is clear and of wide applicability. The Armed Forces exist, above all, to fight. If something about their social or combat conditions unsettles them, that fact should be faced: it is not enough to dismiss the problem just because we may think it arises from prejudice.

A serious argument is not only in Britain that such arguments have found favour. They have also been relied upon heavily in America. To understand the reasoning better, I have been researching American expressions of a similar view, and they are very clear, though loudly not from the navy, but the army.

Take America's General Bradley, for example. "I consider," he said in evidence, "that a unit has high morale when men have confidence in themselves, confidence in their fellow members, and confidence in their leaders." In modern combat, he continued, "a man is thrown very much on his own initiative". If one tried to force the pace of social change, before people were ready to accept these customs, we may have difficulties.

But integration went ahead. None of the dire predictions came to pass, and the move was a complete success. "We didn't do it," said Major-General Anthony McAuliffe afterwards, "to improve the social situation. It was merely a matter of getting the best out of the military personnel that were available."

## Stamped on

AMID THE turmoil consuming the Royal Family, the Queen has decided she has little to celebrate and she doesn't want to make a fuss about her 70th birthday. Her Majesty has vetoed a plan for a commemorative stamp.

The Queen has to give her approval to all stamps produced by the Royal Mail, and plans for a birthday stamp are understood to have been given short shrift. A stamp was issued on the occasion of her 60th birthday and on the 40th anniversary of her accession. Instead a commemorative sticky label will go on sale in April.

Norman Williams, the eminent philatelist who dubbed such non-postal stamps "Cinderellas", says there will be disappointment and surprise among stamp connoisseurs.

Neither the Royal Mail nor Buckingham Palace is prepared to explain more. "After discussions with Buckingham Palace about the 1996 stamp programme, it was agreed that Her Majesty's birthday would be marked with a commemorative label," says a Royal Mail spokesman blandly.

It is believed, however, that she

feels that the rare success of a royal marriage is worth commemorating, and that she has agreed to a stamp marking her 50th wedding anniversary next year.

• Gerald Kaufman has become an H.M. Bateman character: the man who asked for HP Sauce at the Ivy. The incident occurred at the thespian restaurant the other day as he was tucking into baked cod and chips. The waiter looked aghast, and sniffed that he would not dare to ask the chef for such a condiment. Kaufman gave him one of his unblinking stares — but settled for a lesser sauce.

### Early call

AS FAR AS THE BBC is concerned, the general election is in for the end of next month. Teams of planners are working round the clock in preparation for a marathon of coverage all through the night.

David Dimbleby is booked to be behind his desk with a panel of MPs. Peter Snow will be cranking up his swingometer, and cohorts

If the option is between votes and the single currency, Kohl and Chirac will choose popularity

## Realpolitik or the euro — but not both

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister of France, has again rejected the possibility that the European single currency should be postponed or that the Maastricht criteria for membership should be relaxed. Last week he said: "Not only have we not discussed it, but we will not discuss it. The path is fixed. We will stick to the timetable." I always enjoy politicians' statements of this kind: reassurances which fail to reassure. John Major was making similar pledges the weekend before Britain left the ERM. We are not yet within a week of the postponement of the single currency, but it may be getting closer.

One should always look at realities rather than listen to words. Chancellor Kohl is the essential advocate of the single currency; without him, it will not happen. One should therefore consider, first of all, his political situation. His Christian Democrat (CDU) coalition depends on the support of his Bavarian partners, the CSU. They are strongly opposed to a small monetary union, confined to France and Germany's lesser neighbours, because that would expose Bavaria to low-cost Italian competition from outside the group. The Bavarians have been telling Herr

White that they do not want monetary union without Italy, yet Italy cannot conceivably meet the conditions for joining — the debt is far too high.

A narrow monetary union would therefore be politically difficult, perhaps impossible. But even a narrow union would require some loosening of the conditions: Belgium, for instance, has a national debt comparable to Italy's. The Social Democrats (SPD), who are Kohl's Opposition, are opposed to any relaxation of the conditions. Gisela d'Eating, the strongly pro-EU former President of

France, called last Wednesday for the Maastricht conditions to be made easier, as France herself might be unable to meet them. However, the SPD in Germany has made it clear that it would not vote for this. The Germans do not want to replace the mark with an inflationary euro. The Bundesbank is strongly opposed to it, and so are the people.

The German constitutional court has laid down that there will have to be a further vote of both houses of the German Parliament to ratify the single currency. The SPD can therefore block any scheme it regards as unsound, because it has a majority in the upper house. As German public opinion is so hostile to losing the mark, the SPD position is very popular and could be the basis of its next election campaign.

The French political situation is even more difficult than the German, because the French economy is weaker. Both France and Germany will have national elections in 1998. To meet the criteria, France would need to set a deflationary budget for 1997, which would be announced in the autumn of this year. French unemployment is already running at about 11.5 per cent and at nearly 30 per cent among young men. A deflationary budget would therefore be highly unpopular, and would almost guarantee that President

Chirac would lose the French parliamentary elections in 1998.

Philippe Séguin, the leader of the "No" vote in the Maastricht referendum campaign, is a genuine Gaullist; Alain Juppé is a genuine bureaucrat. President Chirac himself behaves sometimes like a Gaullist and sometimes like a bureaucrat. However, he always fights elections in his Gaullist

style, it is quite likely that he will at

William Rees-Mogg

might have great difficulty in winning an election if he lost the Liberals, against a potential SPD coalition with the Greens.

If these March Länder elections do go badly, there are two European meetings at which a postponement of the single currency could be agreed: the Turin summit on March 29-30 and the Verona meeting of April 15-16. The Turin summit is supposed to be the opening of the inter-governmental conference on Maastricht. Both Chancellor Kohl and the Bundesbank will want to keep this European currency situation under control. If the exchange markets become convinced that postponement is inevitable, they will start to put great pressure on the French franc, which would obviously be devalued if the Juppé policy had to be changed. Markets would probably take a Séguin prime ministership as a signal in itself that the game was over. Yet a Séguin prime ministership is politically very attractive.

Chancellor Kohl would undoubtedly like to find a way through to the creation of a single currency in 1999. Although he has just joined his wife in publishing a cookery book (the recipe for Palatine pig's belly sounds delicious), he is not ready for retirement — certainly not before November, when he would become the longest-serving German Chancellor since Bismarck. He would dearly love to leave the euro as a monument to his leadership, alongside the reunification of Germany. But he has survived by being a realist. Even to him, it must be beginning to look as though a single currency in 1999 is economically and politically impossible. If so, the sooner the European Union faces the truth, the better.

## Blair's lesson in retaliation

The Harman row need not damage Labour for long, says Peter Riddell

TONY Blair has reacted to the Harriet Harman affair — "the toughest week I've had since becoming leader" — by going on the offensive. In a speech in Southwark Cathedral this evening, he will address the substance of the row: parental worries that children will suffer in poor comprehensive schools. This response is both characteristic of Mr Blair's style of leadership and politically astute. Nothing would more undermine his attempt to portray Labour as a new party in touch with ordinary people than ambiguity on this issue.

Over the past 18 months, Mr Blair has been engaged in a delicate balancing act on the one hand, trying to convince the public that Labour has really changed by, for example, replacing Clause Four, distancing himself from the unions and embracing the private sector, while on the other hand taking his party along with him, and at the same time changing its structure and broadening its membership. His success in looking like an electoral winner has ensured the acquiescence, if not always the enthusiastic support, of all but the hard-core Left, some of whom have now joined Arthur Scargill's little fantasy party. Few are going to challenge Mr Blair's authority and so threaten Labour's electoral appeal when at last seems to be within its grasp.

The row over Ms Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school was a threat to this strategy. Ms Harman has been a close ally of Mr Blair, and her enforced departure would have been widely seen as victory for "old" over "new" Labour. But it was not simply an "old" versus "new" dispute. That is what made it both so impassioned and so atypical. Labour has deep roots in state education, via teachers,



councillors, governors and parents, and opposition to selection is ingrained.

Consequently, many of Ms Harman's fiercest critics have been not the "old" Left or northern male members who resent her rapid advance, but MPs, including several women, who oppose selection but are otherwise very much "new" Labour.

They recognise the dilemma she

faces as a mother, but believe she acted selfishly as a senior politician in failing to recognise the wider impact of so sensitive a decision. The row has brought to the surface half-submerged criticisms of her as being

more than a spokesman. Her record as a speaker is not strong enough to offset such doubts. One of Mr Blair's close allies said,

"You've got to admire her nerve, or

thick skin," but complained that she did not appreciate the damage she had caused to the "new" Labour approach, and had failed to think

cannot take the party for granted.

Any leader, particularly one with a deliberately bold and challenging style like Mr Blair, is bound to be accused of being arrogant and out of touch. Charges of elitism are invariably levelled at the leader's office. But whenever the opinion of party members is canvassed, as over Clause Four a year ago, Mr Blair is overwhelmingly backed. Moreover, his personal relations with senior members of the Shadow Cabinet are good. The rivalries are between his chief lieutenants, such as Mr Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, and not between them and him, although there are tensions between the leader's staff and other advisers.

Mr Blair is unlike, say, Hugh Gaitskell, whose personal prickliness and distance from colleagues such as Harold Wilson helped doom his attempt to rewrite Clause Four in 1960.

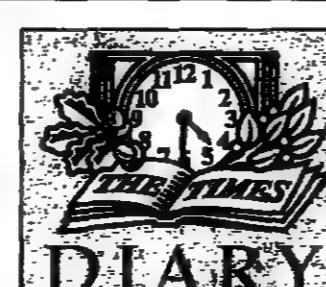
Of course Labour MPs were rattled and angry last week, but that should

be temporary, even though it is hardly an encouraging indicator of how they would behave in face of the much greater strains of government. And after a shaky start to the year, the Tories have been given an opportunity to recover their balance and to counter-attack, which they have done gleefully on the "hypocrisy" theme. Labour may suffer in the short term on this score and because of apparent disunity, but this will be partly offset by sympathy for Ms Harman's personal predicament. There could be a narrowing of Labour's big poll lead, although even before the row, the Tories' standing had been edging up a little, according to last week's MORI poll for *The Times*.

For Mr Blair, the only way to ensure that the damage is not great or permanent is directly to tackle the reason why middle-class parents like Ms Harman opt for grammar schools — and why working-class parents might like to. While opposed to selection, Labour has an ambiguous approach to the 160 existing state grammar schools. The party's tacit acceptance of their continuation is overlaid by a complicated system of local ballots over their future. Mr Blair will this evening argue that it is more important to raise standards in the 25,000 other schools as part of making Britain more socially cohesive. He will discuss proposals both to improve failing schools and to help brighter children through what is euphemistically called "accelerated learning".

This is a version of streaming in which children are grouped separately for different subjects according to ability and interest, rather than by age. This is a way of reconciling parental worries that bright children will be held back within a comprehensive structure. Mr Blair believes this approach will be popular in view of public fears over the reintroduction of the 11-plus. But it still fudges the question of parental choice and of the position of grant-maintained schools.

The Harman affair has exposed Labour's vulnerability. Its face under pressure was at times unappealing. But provided the rest of the party holds its nerve like Mr Blair, it should be a setback, not a turning point.



of reporters are even now being briefed on their roles in feeding through and analysing the results — all for the biggest ever election dummy-run.

And what is the predicted out-

come? It will all be very balanced,

we shall run a number of scenarios," says a Beeb minion.

### Blithe spirit

PRINCE EDWARD announced the other day that he was in search of ghosts for a television series. He might try a midnight fit to Hyde Park. A spirit has turned up the Serpentine bridge.

Police in the park believe it to be the ghost of Harriet Shelley, Percy Bysshe's first wife, who committed suicide by drowning in the Serpentine. PC Stan Fisk of the

Royal Parks Constabulary says he has felt her presence: "It was like a sudden chill, really cold in the dark underneath the bridge; and another time it was as if somebody was behind me but there was nobody when I looked round," he says. Spooky!

• Despite living in Scargill Avenue, Nottingham, Richard and Sarah Robinson have perversely given their newborn son the middle name Blair.

FRESH from winning a Golden Globe award for *Sense and Sensibility*, Emma Thompson has turned theatrical angel. She has stamped up an undischased sum to enable the curtain to rise on the latest production of a struggling young company.

*The Art of Random Whistling*, from a group of actors calling themselves Wink, opens at the Young Vic Studio this week. Thompson saw another of their shows and decided to back them. Omnipotently, the company's work is trumpeted as "total theatre", and as displaying a "unique ensemble style". If my fears are justified, it won't be the first time there has been a touch of pretentious-

ness about Thompson's attempts to shrug off her stardom. When she won an Oscar for *Howard's End*, she kept it in her downstairs loo.

New, new, new

TONY BLAIR has achieved sufficient momentum to merit a long profile in this week's *New York Times*. Its headline is "The Next Prime Minister" — with no question-mark.

Fair shares

PRINCE EDWARD announced the other day that he was in search of ghosts for a television series. He might try a midnight fit to Hyde Park. A spirit has turned up the Serpentine bridge.

Police in the park believe it to be the ghost of Harriet Shelley, Percy Bysshe's first wife, who committed suicide by drowning in the Serpentine. PC Stan Fisk of the

Emma: just loved it and tipped the Wink

It is a respectful piece, and the Labour Party co-operated fully with the scene of Manhattan liberalism. Sidney Blumenthal not only visited Blair at home — for a cup of fruit tea — but spoke to such shadowy party strategists as Peter Mandelson and Philip Gould.

He asked Mandelson whether Labour saw much significance in Bill Clinton's re-election campaign as an indicator of its own chances. "Clinton win? Not important. Nothing, no effect," Mandelson reportedly said. But then, Blumenthal notes, "he started biting all his nails at once and shaking".

### Eagle landing

A TRAVEL TIP: do not fly by Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards. A recent British Airways flight to London from New York on which the hopeless ski-jumper was a passenger was an uneasy affair.

Take-off was delayed by 12 hours when the plane in front was involved in a crash on the runway. Then, in the air a woman had a fit and the captain put out the unsettling call "there a doctor on board?"

"Eddie gave her his seat because it had more leg-room, and she calmed down, but we were all a bit jittery," says a passenger. "Then

we were all putting on our seatbelts to land when Eddie got up and disappeared into the cockpit... There were horrified looks from some passengers and white knuckles but it landed more safely than he does."

P.H.S





## GRAVES OF VLASENICA

Ugly remains from the past pose hard questions for Nato

We are already too used to news of atrocity from Bosnia. Yet no sooner has Western public opinion seemed to grow numb to news of Balkan deaths and cruelty, than another mass grave is uncovered to remind us of the ghastly nature of that conflict. *The Times* today carries a report from Vlisenica, a small mining town 20 miles from Srebrenica, in Eastern Bosnia. As our correspondent writes, an extensive trench has been found on the edge of that Serb-held town: the trench, preliminary evidence suggests, hides the bodies of murdered Bosnian Muslims. It is too soon to say how many are interred there, but early, and apprehensive, arithmetic suggests that the numbers will not be small. At least 8,000 Muslims were once interned at a concentration camp near by; many of them, almost certainly, were tortured, killed and buried in the trench.

As Nato's implementation force (IFOR) secures large swaths of Bosnia — following the accord concluded at Dayton, Ohio, in November last year — areas previously out of bounds to journalists and human rights observers are yielding up their blood-stained secrets. Vlisenica is one such place. A town with a Muslim majority which was wholly "cleansed" of its Muslims by Serb forces, it now poses a hard question to Nato's military commanders. When other mass graves are uncovered in Serb-held land in the days ahead — as they surely will be — the question will repeat itself with uncomfortable frequency: what should be done in response? Should the action be merely actuarial, confined to helping in the count of victims and bodies? Or should there be conducted a vigorous pursuit of the perpetrators of these crimes of war?

Under the Dayton accord, IFOR would appear not to be responsible for arresting

war criminals. Theirs is a military task: they are in Bosnia to hold the peace and to safeguard the principles of the agreement, which include the securing of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a single state. Furthermore, they will assist refugees if available and if requested. The role of Nato troops in the investigation of atrocities, however, is much less clear. But with the unearthing of each fresh mass grave, pressure to act grows on the troops on the ground. This pressure, increasingly, comes from Nato's civilian command. Admiral Leighton Smith, the American military commander of Operation Joint Endeavour, has voiced his fears of a "mission creep", or an unstructured broadening of the Dayton mandate. Many soldiers believe that a constabulary response to graves like that of Vlisenica, involving a search for those responsible, might cause a precarious peace to unravel altogether.

If there is merit in that argument, there is force also in the view which insists that the troops at least act to safeguard evidence. The head of Vlisenica must be allowed to tell their tale before the International War Crimes Tribunal. The preservation of evidence should be relatively simple: and with modern forensic technology, a skilled team of scientists should not need an inordinate length of time to draw its conclusions. Admiral Smith has shown that — while alert to the letter of his mandate — he is not unsympathetic to broader questions. "Within the resources, and consistent with our primary missions, we will provide what help we can to investigate grave sites." He has promised, also, to "provide an environment in which the investigators can work". That, surely, is the right approach. Bosnia must rebuild for the future: it cannot do so without addressing its immediate past.

## COUNCIL OF HOPE

A gain for Russia is a gain for Europe

Last week's vote to admit Russia as the 39th member of the Council of Europe has been bitterly contested inside Russia as well as in the West. Respected democrats and human rights advocates have argued that the respect accorded to the Council, founded in 1949 as the political trustee of human rights and democratic behaviour in Europe, rests on its readiness to insist that its member states accept and abide by a number of clear obligations. They contend that Russia's admission at this juncture is a politically-motivated decision, and a mistake.

Boris Yeltsin has given the critics plenty of ammunition. The Kremlin shows no intention of disciplining those guilty of atrocities against civilians in Chechnya — who have been made doubly victims, of their own gangster regime and of brutal and inept Russian efforts to suppress its rebellion. Worryingly, the ensuing political crisis in Russia has driven the country to the right, and the odds now favour a victory for communists and ultra-nationalists in next June's presidential election. In response, Mr Yeltsin appears to have made his own the old slogan, "if you can't beat them, join them". The country's modernisers, reformers and most convinced democrats are everywhere on the defensive.

The Council's report to its parliamentary assembly bluntly admitted that Russia does not meet its criteria for membership. The hope is that the Council's machinery can be used, as it has been in Romania, to help Russia to improve its record. But the Council has few ways to force Russia to live up to the promises it made last week: and no sooner were the votes counted in Strasbourg — than the result hailed by Mr Yeltsin — than Vladimir Lukin, the head of the Russian parliamentary delegation, was saying that Russian "realities" would affect compliance with Council recommendations.

Yet the balance of wisdom lies with those who swallowed their doubts and voted yes. The decision is not an abandonment of principle, and governments should have no hesitation in endorsing it. The first reason is

that for all the current uncertainties, Russia has made strides towards free institutions far greater than anyone predicted a decade ago. The defence of democracy, for a start, is no longer a crime: the press is a chaotic marketplace of competing voices vehemently discussing vast areas of policy, from the death penalty to mental health care, racism and official abuses of power that for many decades were taboo. The problem with last month's elections was that there were too many parties, not that there was only one.

Many of these gains are derided as sham and "un-Russian" by racists ultranationalists such as Vladimir Zhirinovsky — who is frank in his anger at being robbed of his line that the West is "against Russia" and bent on isolating it. But that is precisely why the citizens of Russia should not be left to face the enemies of democracy alone.

The second reason is that as a member, Russia must ratify within a year a number of important European conventions: on human rights, on safeguards for ethnic minorities and on torture. Within three years it must abolish the death penalty, and it has already been urged to do so much sooner. To comply with these obligations will entail a vast programme of much-needed penal reforms, helping to give greater solidity to the formal guarantees written into Russia's constitution. A committee has been set up to monitor Russia's actions in Chechnya. Above all, Russia will be liable to challenge in the European Court of Justice — by other governments and, if it accepts the optional protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights, by ordinary Russian citizens — if its fails to abide by its obligations under the conventions. Russia is a deeply troubled country that has thrown itself into the wider world. A great debate is raging as to who its enemies are, and who it can count as its friends.

Having extended the hand of friendship, the Council of Europe is placed to exert a beneficial influence on that debate. It is surely right to have done so: for the outcome will affect every country in Europe.

## WELCOME BACK

After her trauma, Seles is again a winner

Once upon a time there was a young girl from Novi Sad, in Yugoslavia. She played tennis, hitting the ball with a quite unladylike thump.

And she grunted as she thumped — vast, rumbling, primordial sounds. Men-players had always grunted so, and no one had thought to mind. Her female opponents, however, did not like the noise much: nor, we suspect, did anyone else. But Monica Seles was a tenacious champion: very hungry, very eager. Then she was stabbed at a match in Germany — by a man obsessed with another great tennis player, Steffi Graf — and Miss Seles could play the game no longer. She was wrecked, not yet 21 years old, at her peak.

Miss Seles spent two years away from the tennis court. Whereas her physical injuries, fortunately, were not serious, the damage inflicted to her youthful psyche was considerable. And in the period she spent off court, her native Yugoslavia also went to pieces, adding complex tribal woe to her bitter personal trauma. She shunned crowds, understandably fearful of attack; she shunned tennis, fearing the game as the cause of her

and her doctors. And just as her mind had started to heal, the breathtaking leniency of the German courts, which imposed on her assailant only a suspended sentence, dealt a stinging blow to her morale. The man is free, and has not spent a single day in prison.

Women's tennis was impoverished by her absence. The stock of the game fell low, and competition became even more predictable and one-sided: the interest of spectators began to plummet. Miss Seles's return, therefore, is as important for the game as it is for her. Her first match — last July — was against that muscled dowager of the tennis courts, Martina Navratilova. Although it was only an exhibition event, Miss Seles played an articulate game. She won, and, wonderful to relate, even grunted.

On Saturday, in the final of the Australian Open, she returned to business as usual, disposing of her opponent in straight, punchy sets. But as our tennis correspondent writes, her mind has still not emerged completely from its torment. She broke down after the match, when pressed by an unchivalrous questioner on her memories of Germany. Miss Seles has our sympathy and deserves help in rebuilding her life and game. She

مكتبة من الأرشيف

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Choice, selection and resources in a child's education

From Professor Emeritus I. M. Roit, FRS

Sir, Although the benefits to the Labour Party are not so clear, Harriet Harman has done a great service by focusing on the desirability of parents having some say in the provision of schooling for their children (letters, January 24, 26). Possibly more important than the issue of selection is that of streaming (or, as teachers prefer, "setting") pupils for certain subjects. Unstreamed classes place a greater burden on the teacher, frustrate the more able pupil and cause despair among the weaker brethren.

The powers that be have done a grotesque disservice to our country over a long period by pressing for unstreamed teaching, with disheartening results.

If parents really want to be stakeholders in education, they should start now, call a meeting of their parent-teacher association, debate the issue of streaming and, if they are for it, strongly advise the head teacher to introduce it from the first year of secondary schooling at least. If the head proves unresponsive to an overwhelming parental wish, his/her authority would soon be undermined.

Here is a wonderful opportunity to devote more power to the individual to express personal choice without having to ask the Government for any extra money.

Yours faithfully,  
IVAN ROIT,  
95 Finchley Road, NW1.

January 26.

From Dr Keith Hampson, MP for Leeds North West (Conservative)

Sir, In searching for the reasons for poor primary school performance, it would be wise to study the 1991 report, *Primary Education in Leeds*, by Professor Alexander of the University of Leeds.

Over four years the schools he examined received from the local education authority an extra £13.75 million, most of which was spent on 500 additional teachers. The report concluded that there was "no evidence that the injection of extra staff and

money ... had had a positive impact on children's reading ability". In fact, there was even a decline in some inner-city schools, where resources were concentrated.

There were two essential reasons:

an LEA strategy which "underplayed or ignored children's potential", leading to low expectations among teachers; and the LEA seeing its role as "definer, arbiter and keeper of good primary practice", when the practices teachers were pressured to adopt did not work on the ground. There were "busy" classrooms but "reduced opportunities for the quiet concentrated study required by ... reading and writing".

One suspects that the deficiencies highlighted in Leeds have been common to a great many English primary schools since the Plowden report in 1967. Above all, this study demonstrates what the Labour Party, which controls the vast majority of LEAs, wants us to overlook: namely that schools in this country are not "government" schools, but "council" schools.

It is local councils that have determined the structure of our schools and the management of resources and for too long their deficiencies have not been exposed.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH HAMPSON,  
House of Commons.

January 26.

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Instead of adopting an education policy which levels down, and then results in hypocrisy by its leaders, the Labour Party should emulate what a strongly committed Conservative I am full of gratitude for the education provided to me in the 1940s by Durham County Council which has had continuous single Labour control since the early part of this century. This was at Wellfield Grammar School, Wingate.

The county's many well run grammar schools, filled by competitive examination without parental interviews, produced in their day large numbers of pupils who have achieved great success and prominence in a

wide variety of fields. Those from Wellfield alone include a leading Labour politician in the House of Lords and a top industrialist. Opened in 1930, Wellfield catered for about 150 villages where there was no privilege and much financial hardship.

I fully support equality of opportunity, but linked to selection, because there will never be equality of intellect, equality of willingness to work or equality of willingness to learn.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN ASKEW,  
27 Golf Links Avenue,  
Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

January 23.

From Mr W. Randolph Angell

Sir, Could there be any greater demonstration of commitment to address the problems in our school system, or any greater incentive to make progress toward the political ideals propounded by the Labour Party, than having one's own offspring schooled within that very system?

This to me would have represented a shining example of Mr Blair's stakeholder's society.

Yours sincerely,  
W. R. ANGELL,

47 Springfield Road, N11.

January 24.

From the General Secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Sir, Your leader today on the Labour Party's education policies referring to an independent opinion poll commissioned by this organisation inaccurately states that "Selection is popular: a Harris poll published today suggests 54 per cent of parents favour it". Fifty-four per cent of the public favour selection, not parents. Support for bringing back grammar schools may be there but Conservatives should not kid themselves they are on a winner.

Sincerely,  
PETER SMITH,  
General Secretary,  
The Association of Teachers and Lecturers,  
7 Northumberland Street, WC2.

January 22.

From Sir Bryan Askew

Sir, Your leader today on the Labour Party's education policies referring to an independent opinion poll commissioned by this organisation inaccurately states that "Selection is popular: a Harris poll published today suggests 54 per cent of parents favour it".

Fifty-four per cent of the public favour selection, not parents. Support for bringing back grammar schools may be there but Conservatives should not kid themselves they are on a winner.

Yours faithfully,  
BRYAN ASKEW,

27 Golf Links Avenue,

Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

January 23.

From Professor L. D. Barron

Sir, While the call by the Prince of Wales for projects to reflect deeper, more fundamental aspects of the millennium is to be applauded, his suggestion for the erection of "a great religious building" prompts the depressing thought that the perception of the world by much of humanity has changed little over the past 3,000 years: the profound philosophical and spiritual implications of the great works of science that have created the modern world seem to have passed it by.

Surely wonders such as the glimpse

of a galaxy of galaxies in a tiny dot of the sky revealed recently by the Hubble space telescope (report, January 17)

offer the modern mind more food for spiritual thought than anything the traditional religions now seem able to provide.

Yours faithfully,  
L. D. BARRON,

31 Newtonleas Avenue,

Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

January 26.

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, What indeed is the significance of the end of the present millennium? It is a completely notional date, counting an entirely arbitrary number from a certainly miscalculated beginning, which will anyway be generally but inaccurately marked at the end of 1999 rather than 2000 or 2001.

If it has any intrinsic meaning, this is superstitious rather than spiritual and Christian rather than ecumenical, and it should be restricted accordingly, as it was a thousand years ago. But if it is to become the excuse for wider celebration, this should surely concentrate not on religious elements — what may be seen by various faiths and creeds as sacred or transcendental — but on realistic projects — what may seem truly universal and genuinely civilised in a country and a world where millions of us have no faith or creed.

It would be tragic if this mainly fortuitous festival turned out to add a further breach to all those already existing among us, and it is already most unfortunate that so much depends on the national shame of the National Lottery.

Yours etc,

NICOLAS WALTER,

Rationalist Press Association,

88 Islington High Street, N1.

January 26.

From Mrs Jane Cooper

Sir, In my opinion the Prince of Wales, the future head of the Church of England, has his priorities wrong in wanting to celebrate the millennium by building non-Christian places of worship.

Yours faithfully,

JANE COOPER,

60 Fern Avenue,

Newcastle upon Tyne,

Tyne and Wear.

January 25.

Give with one hand ...

From Mr Giles Craven

Sir, Before I had the chance to enjoy the modest tax savings promised in the last Budget, I have received notice of another promise from government, this time the local variety. They promise to increase my council tax by up to 94 per cent in the coming year. They blame central government for the increase.

Yours etc,

GILES CRAVEN,

20 Court Lane Gardens, SE1.

January 25.

... and with one hand ...

From Mr Alan Coustan

Sir, You report (January 24) that analysts are forecasting improvements in the property market. In this small township, an adjunct of Hull, we have six estate agents in one location, at Willerby Square, including two recent arrivals. For the sake of their businesses I hope you are right.

But what we could really do with is



future

actics

THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 29 1996

## OBITUARIES

## BARBARA SKELTON

Barbara Skelton, writer, died in Worcestershire from a brain tumour on January 27 aged 79. She was born in Maidenhead on June 26, 1916.

THE former wife of both Cyril Connolly and George Weidenfeld, Barbara Skelton enjoyed the reputation of being one of the leading *femmes fatales* of postwar London. But, in a sense, that reputation did her less than justice. A talented writer, she was the author of two novels, *A Young Girl's Touch* (1956), dedicated to Connolly and published by Weidenfeld, and *A Love Match* (1969), withdrawn that same year after legal objections from another admirer, John Sutro. But if her luck was mixed as a novelist, she had better fortune as a short story writer, and her *Born Losers* (1965) remains a classic collection.

Above all, however, she is likely to be remembered for her two volumes of memoirs published when she was already into her seventies: *Tears Before Bedtime* (1987) and *Weep No More* (1989). Both books have something in them of her own personality — irreverent, funny and wholly unconventional. With her predominantly child-like qualities, she may have lived for pleasure but — to do her justice — she wrote for it, too. There seems little doubt that Connolly was the love of her life and in *Tears Before Bedtime* (the better of the two works) she writes about him with an abiding affection, which even exasperation cannot wholly conceal. It offers a vivid portrait of a thoroughly bohemian lifestyle in which comfort took second place.

That, though, was not necessarily true of luxury, for Skelton also gives a full account of her affairs with the young King Farouk of Egypt — in which, on financial grounds alone, Connolly at first seems to have encouraged her ("After all, a king's a king"). Skelton may have become sensitive about this episode later — particularly



resenting the charge that she had been set up in a villa overlooking the Giza Sporting Club when all the time she was living in a humble Italian pension. But, as with Connolly, she appears to have retained an affection for Farouk, whose good qualities she consistently showed herself anxious to emphasise. (The world, alas, is more likely to recall his curious habit of whipping her with a dressing-gown cord.) The one person about whom

she could be said to have shown a lack of charity was her second husband, George Weidenfeld — whosehurst physical characteristics and invariable command on social occasions to "gush, gush" she unkindly preserved for posterity. But, although she struck the first blow in *Weep No More* (and even before that in a short story, "What's New", in which Weidenfeld appears as a character called "Weingorse"), he at least had the right of reply in his

memoirs, *Remembering My Good Friends* (1995). He exercised it, however, with considerable restraint, describing their 1955-56 relationship as "an obsession that dwarfed everything else" and their six-month marriage as being approached "with a deep sense of doom" on both sides. The truth, of course, was that she had never really wanted to give up Connolly (who at the time had gone off with someone else), and there was a certain symmetry in the

fact that in the two successive divorce cases Weidenfeld should have been the respondent in the first and Connolly in the second. Although she went back fleetingly to Connolly, they did not marry again, her third husband being the immensely rich and eventually six-times-married Professor Derek Jackson — from whom, after a very brief time as man-and-wife, she was fortunate enough to obtain a handsome settlement. After her parting with Jackson she lived first in Provence, and then near Paris, returning to live in Chelsea only a couple of years ago.

In her way of life Barbara Skelton was, no doubt, partly the product of her background. The elder daughter of a Regular Army officer and a former Gaiety Girl, she had a peripatetic childhood in which there was little promise of the slimy beauty to come: with typical candour she even described herself while young as "bun-faced with slanting, sludge-coloured eyes". Lile, however, began to look up once she had been seduced by a wealthy family friend in the Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton.

A trip to India (where her paternal uncle was in charge of medical services) followed but that also ended in disgrace when her army officer lover stowed away on the home-going ship, was discovered and eventually faced a court-martial. Once home, she became briefly a model for the Italian designer Schiaparelli before taking her first wartime job in a factory. She did not find this congenial and in 1941 managed to find war work with the Yugoslav-Government-in-Exile. This, in turn, led to Donald Maclean (later the defector) suggesting that she should go out to Cairo as a cipher clerk in the British Embassy. This she duly did — and the rest, after various romantic excursions, became postwar literary history.

Barbara Skelton, who was looked after in her last illness by Connolly's daughter of his second marriage, had no children of her own.

Harold Brodkey, author, died from an Aids-related illness on January 26 aged 65. He was born on October 25, 1930.

THERE were two schools of thought regarding the American novelist Harold Brodkey: the first that he was one of America's most gifted living writers, and worthy of comparison with Proust or Walt Whitman; the second that he was an amusing fraud, whose celebrity in Manhattan literary circles was a classic case of the emperor's clothes.

Justification for the second opinion rested on Brodkey's remarkably slender output. After a much heralded debut with a charming collection of short stories, Brodkey had begun work on his *opus*, his great novel, in the early 1960s. *The Runaway Soul* was finally published in 1991, thirty years later. And in the interim only a handful of articles and excerpts from the novel had appeared in print. After all the advance publicity, much of it self-generated, it was not surprising that Brodkey was nervous of throwing himself to the lions' den of critics.

During these thirty years, Brodkey, as the potential deliverer of the Great American Novel, had become more famous than anything he had, or had not, written. He had ridden the 1980s wave of author-as-celebrity to triumph. John Updike had reportedly used him as his model for the devil in *The Witches of Eastwick*. Jay McInerney had caricatured him as Victor Prupp in *Brightness Falls* as a "long-term, highly speculative literary investment" whose "reputation grew with each book he failed to publish".

It was only natural, therefore, that after such a protracted gestation, the book would disappoint some reviewers when it was finally published. After struggling through *The Runaway Soul's* impenetrable dense prose, one critic concluded that death would have been a smarter career move for Brodkey than publication.

## HAROLD BRODKEY



"Brodkey Delivers." Silence followed from Brodkey, who was still refining the manuscript. Ten years later, in 1986, *The Washington Post* also reported that the end was in sight: "Now there is real reason to believe that Brodkey is loosening his hold on the novel." Brodkey responded by allowing several extracts from the novel to be published in *The New Yorker*. Another collection of short stories, *The Abundant Dreamer*, was quickly published in 1989. That year the novel was advertised in a publisher's catalogue but Brodkey changed his mind and withdrew it for further revisions. Two years later *The Runaway Soul*, as the novel was now called, was published at last.

Written in an intensely rich prose style, *The Runaway Soul* was very different from those early short stories. It told the story of Wiley Silenowicz,

his relationships with his parents and with women, and its aim was to describe the workings of human consciousness on a level never before attempted in a novel, to capture the sensation of the passage of individual moments as they are lived. In practice, this could mean that the single action of walking and walking to the bathroom could take four chapters to describe.

The novel was written in what Frank Kermode once described as prose of "painful abundance", with eccentric syntax and arbitrary use of capital letters and italics. Meaning was quite often obscured behind a barrage of images. But when it worked, Brodkey could deliver some striking lines, as when he described the air at dawn: "Partly asleep, partly a-dance, but in cells trembling with heavy moisture".

Two years later Brodkey discovered that he was HIV positive. By this time he was settled in New York with his second wife, Ellen Schwamm, also a novelist; this first marriage had ended in divorce. She survives him, together with a daughter, stepdaughter and two stepsons.

## JÓZSEF MOLNÁR



József Molnár, interpreter at the British Embassy in Budapest, died on January 9 in Australia aged 74. He was born in Budapest on April 24, 1921.

ALTHOUGH a retiring and quietly spoken man, József Molnár had a natural gift for languages — a gift which he was put to important use in building up an increasingly better understanding between his native Hungarians and the British in postwar years.

When Hungary entered the war in alliance with Nazi Germany, Molnár was employed as an interpreter between a divisional head-quarters and the German corps to which he was attached. In 1945 when his unit surrendered to British troops, he began to act as an interpreter, this time between the British and the city's British-appointed German mayor of Hanover.

Molnár grew to respect the British during his dealings with them. When he returned to a shattered Hungary in 1946, he got employment with a team from the Imperial War Graves Commission engaged in recovering for reburial the remains of British and Empire airmen who had been shot down. Hungarian officers, he used to say, would have started the digging, and then left the delicate and unpleasant task of recovering the remains to the least-regarded of their men. The British revered the process.

It was not long before Molnár drifted into the service of the newly-established British Legation in Budapest, an organisation for which he was to work until his retirement.

József Molnár, third from the right, interpreting for Princess Margaret in Budapest, 1985.

He became the military attaché's interpreter and clerk, and in 1956 was given British citizenship. When the Hungarian Revolution came in the autumn of that year, it was he who provided much of the information reaching London about the course of events.

By the end of October, when it looked as though the Hungarians had succeeded in driving the Red Army out of Budapest, a discussion of events was staged between the British military attaché and Pal Malter, the revolutionary leader. Molnár's presence as an interpreter at this meeting was to lead to his brief imprisonment. For when, after severe and brutal fighting, Soviet forces suppressed the revolution and János Kádár returned to lead

in the Legation's little school. For many years Molnár led a strange half-life, caught between British employers with whom friendship was always tempered by an inescapable reserve, a hatred of an oppressive communist regime, and aspirations for freedom and full sovereignty of the Hungarian people. However, the situation began slowly to change. British official visitors started to find their way to Hungary and Molnár came to serve not only as an interpreter, but also as mentor and friend.

He accompanied, among many others, both the Duke of Edinburgh when he visited Hungary to take part in four-in-hand championships and Princess Margaret when she came with the Royal Ballet.

Molnár also escorted a succession of British ambassadors on their visits to various Communist Party secretaries, mayors, chambers of commerce and university faculties. He would interpret faithfully all that was said, but afterwards in the car would volunteer his own impressions of what had also, and crucially, not been said.

However, when the time came for Molnár's retirement, he chose not to stay in Hungary which still remained under Kádár's restrictive regime. He and his wife decided to follow his only daughter to Australia — she and her husband had moved there some years before and started their own family. His last years there were happy — though clouded by poverty and exile — and Molnár continued to teach European languages.

He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

## Nature notes



as long as possible, and sometimes become so weak that foxes go out and catch them. Magpies and crows also walk around foraging on the ice. Many ducks go to the sea.

In the frost and snow, small birds have been flocking into gardens where water has been put out for them: it is just as

## Scottish Episcopal Church

## Appointments

Richard Fisher, previously Curate at St Peter's Thrus and St John's Wick, Acomb in the Diocese of York to be Mission Priest at Kingswell, Aberdeen.

Paul John Tarrant, Vicar of St Andrew's, Little Compton, Rhode Island, USA, to be Rector of Old St Paul's, Edinburgh.

Stuart Campbell Bonney, Chaplain at HMP Moordale, Lancaster, to be Priest in Charge at St Columba's Bathgate and St Peter's Linlithgow.

Roger Cutler, permission to officiate in diocese of Glasgow and Galloway.

Roger Benedict SSF to leave the brothers at Barrowfield and move to the Community of the Divine

as vicar in the diocese of Glasgow

## ROYAL PALACE PICKETED.

OFFICE OF WORKS STRIKE WIDENED.

(By Our London Correspondent)

The strike by the thousand employees at the Office of Works who are responsible for maintaining the heating and lighting services of the Government offices, the Royal Palaces and House of Commons, and certain other public buildings in London, was continued yesterday, and discussions in the Joint Industrial Council for the Department failed to bring about a settlement.

The stoppage of work had wider extent yesterday than on Tuesday, and for the first time in the history of this country, men employed at Royal Palaces joined in a strike. Buckingham Palace was picketed — the King and Queen are at Sandringham. The engineering staff at Marlborough House and St James's Palace also left work. So did the men at the British Museum who had remained on duty on Tuesday. The buildings affected by the strike yesterday were the following:

Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, Marlborough House, the Houses of Parliament, the Law Courts, all the Government

## ON THIS DAY

January 29, 1925



"The issue is simply whether an employer shall be compelled to dismiss a man who has ceased to be a member of a trade union." Much more was to be heard of this kind of controversy.

Court and County Courts.

Representatives of the strikers claimed that the strike was complete, and it appeared indeed that it was. But it was not difficult to organise a volunteer staff in nearly all cases. The Office of Works stated early in the day that the joining in the strike of the Buckingham Palace workmen had been anticipated and provided for, and that the usual services were being maintained without inconvenience. It

cleaning of the internal fittings.

The issue, raised primarily by the Electrical Trade Union is clear cut. It is simply whether an employer of labour — in this case the Government — shall be compelled to dismiss a man who has ceased to be a member of a trade union. If the unions were able to maintain this demand they would be in a position to present to all workmen the alternative of membership of the union or unemployment. There is no question of the observance of trade union conditions. The Office of Works takes common ground with employers generally in declining to make membership of a union a condition of employment. The Electrical Trades Union has gone so far as to say in the present instance that it will not re-employ the defaulting member in the union.

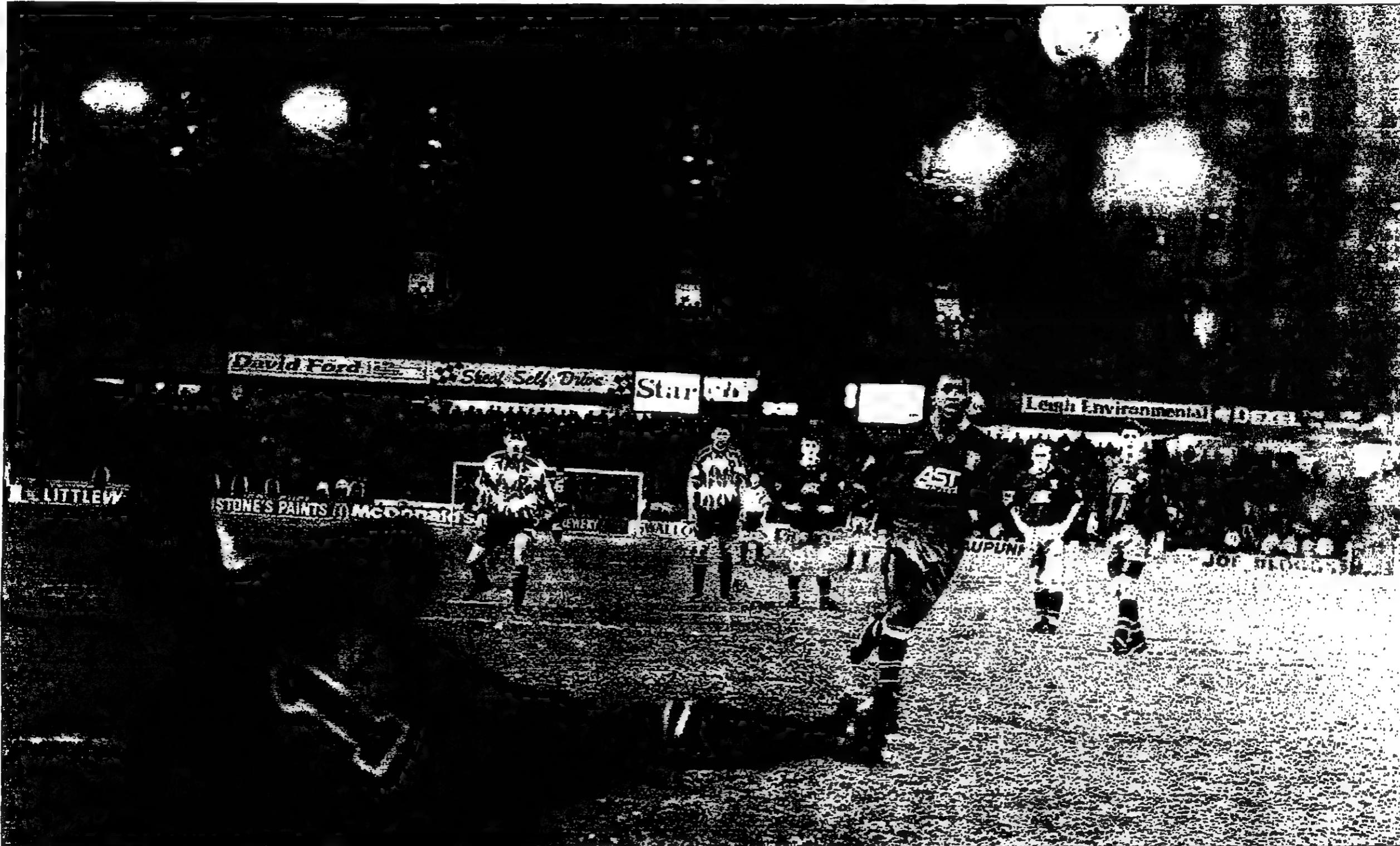
To be consistent it would have to oppose his employment anywhere and therefore it is committed to the policy of driving him out of his trade. The man whose non-payment of the union subscriptions has caused all the trouble stated yesterday that so far as he was concerned the position was that the Electrical Trades Union would not have him, the Office



TENNIS	ATHLETICS	GOLF	RUGBY UNION
<b>23</b> Becker rolls back the years with timely victory	<b>27</b> Buckfield raises high hopes for promise of youth	<b>28</b> Extra effort brings Woosnam opening credit	<b>30</b> England recall Rodber for Wales game

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY JANUARY 29 1996



Yorke leaves Kelly, the United goalkeeper, well beaten from the penalty spot for the goal that took Villa through a potentially difficult FA Cup fourth-round tie yesterday. Photograph: David Davies

Penalty dispute dismissed as Villa reach FA Cup fifth round

## Yorke spots United's weakness

**Sheffield United** 0  
**Aston Villa** 1

By DAVID MILLER

on the belligerent determination of Ward to bludgeon Villa into error, with his persistent runs from midfield.

A few minutes from time he so nearly succeeded, but having driven through Villa's retreating ranks on the left, his sharp low cross into the goalmouth was smothered in a flash by the diving Bosnich, and the threat was gone.

The penalty that decided the outcome came on the hour, and was additionally controversial for the manner in which Yorke took the kick. We have seen such casual feint to send the goalkeeper diving, followed by a simple shot into the middle of the net, performed by only a few: long ago by Pelé, or his Santos colleague, Coutinho, or by an almost similar soft touch by Danny Blanchflower.

The incident arose when Wright, such a dapper performer in his distribution from the left side of the Villa midfield, sent the ball through to Johnson. Making ground, Johnson saw Milosevic breaking clear and fed him the ball.

As the Yugoslav, whose close ball-control tormented the United defenders for so much of the game, entered the penalty area, he was chopped from his left side by Short, the Sheffield United right back. The illegal challenge knocked Milosevic's left thigh, and for the next few strides he was totally off-balance. By the time he came in conflict with

the referee, supported by the linesman, rightly pointed to the penalty spot, though afterwards he confirmed he had given the decision for the second collision, not the first. Kelly, who was booked, was furious and Short conceded that he was probably to blame. "Alan [Kelly] never touched him," Short said.

The first illegal tackle was the one that mattered. Both

Milosevic went into the area, I tried to get across and if there was a foul it was by me. He stumbled when he could have gone down but kept going. Then Alan came out and he just went over him. The ball had already gone over the line for a goal kick.

After the broomstick of protest, Yorke kept his nerve and coolly sent Kelly in pursuit of a mazurka. Snowballs rained down on the unfortunate Milosevic.

Before and afterwards there had not been much doubt about which team ought to win. It had been 25 minutes at the start before United came close to threatening Bosnich. Villa being camped almost permanently in their opponent's half of the field but unable to finish with accuracy.

Home retaliation arrived, typically, from Ward. Early on he had been playing man-for-man on the elusive Johnson, but now he switched to a free midfield role and immediately this almost gave Sheffield United a lead.

A powerful run on the right carried Ward past two men and his eventual cross was deflected for a corner. The dogged Patterson, who in midfield is a sort of poor man's Batty, swung across a low kick to the near post. Nilsen cleverly back-heeled, but the danger was hacked clear.

Milosevic had already made and missed a couple of chances for himself and, ten minutes before half-time, he floated a tormenting cross

over the home team and the crowd, convincing themselves that Milosevic had divined, protested in vain, the crowd loudly chanting "cheat". So easily in today's society do people come to believe that they have been wrongly denied.

After the broomstick of protest, Yorke kept his nerve and coolly sent Kelly in pursuit of a mazurka. Snowballs rained down on the unfortunate Milosevic.

Introducing Veart, the match-winner against Arsenal, in place of Hutchinson for the second half, United briefly threatened, but soon Townsend, Draper and Johnson were masters again in midfield, so that the penalty was no more than they might have expected. Thereafter, they could have extended their lead until, in the last ten minutes, they became edgy and allowed United to counter-attack. But it was all in vain.

Brian Little, the manager, has in a year turned Villa into a side capable of challenging for any domestic trophy, and they have now won 11 of their past 16 matches. For Kendall, whatever his belief in coherent football, the next three months are going to be a long uphill struggle for survival.

**SHEFFIELD UNITED** (2): A Kelly (c), D Short, D Hooper, D Little, R Nixon — M Ward, M Patterson, G Cowans (sub: G

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# Hewitt and McMillan a durable double act

**D**epending on your age, you may consider John McEnroe and Peter Fleming to be the finest men's doubles pair you have seen play tennis. In that case, perhaps you are too young to have seen Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan. Which of these wonderful pairs was an arguable point, but Hewitt and McMillan won more tournaments.

They broke up in 1980, when Hewitt retired, having played in harness for 14 years, winning three Wimbledon doubles championships and scores of others. Since then, they have seen little of each other, although they have appeared occasionally in Masters tournaments. Observers used to think that they did not get on. Listen to Hewitt: "We have two legs, two arms and

one head, and that is about the complete similarity." Not quite. Two legs, two arms, one head, and a job with Eurosport.

For the past fortnight, Hewitt and McMillan have been with Simon Reed — Oliver's brother — and David Mercer, bringing daily coverage of the Australian Open. McMillan is best known for his work with Radio 5, but Hewitt's voice is new to Great Britain. McMillan worked with Sky last year before Eurosport took over the contract to become the new European home of the men's Tour. For the next four years, it will televise the ATP world championship, the Super 9 series and the ATP world team championship, as well as the Australian, French and Wimbledon grand-slam tournaments. Queen's too. More than 800



DAVID POWELL

## TV ACTION REPLAY

hours in a year, mostly live or first broadcast.

Hewitt is on what he describes as "a trial period". Already he is set up. He demonstrated a cheerful wit during the Australian Open and, if his inside knowledge of the players and tactical perception are less sharp than McMillan's, he is no less forthright in his criticism. Television today expects nothing less.

When Andre Agassi gave the impression of lacking commitment in his semi-final defeat by Michael Chang, McMillan said he was "lucky to get away with applause when he left the court... I thought he deserved a bit of bird". Rubbishing Agassi may not be the popular thing to do, but when Hewitt came on later to cover the Boris Becker-Mark Woodforde semi-final, he described Agassi's match as "a disgrace... I was surprised at the warm reception he got".

Hewitt told me: "Some players do not like my interpretation of what I have seen, but we must not consider the persons sitting in the armchair as blind idiots." Reed, who

head-hunted him, said: "He was the kind of guy I wanted. He calls a spade a spade."

Reed says McMillan is "the best analyst, bar none", and it is hard to disagree. When Seles is described as "the double-handed goddes", who are we to argue? Seles was the first double-hander on both sides to win a grand-slam singles. McMillan was the first in doubles. His white hat was his trademark, but he never made a penny from wearing it. Dunn and Co, where he bought his hats, rejected his request for sponsorship.

"I had to pay for my caps throughout my career," he said. Who better than he, then, to recognise modern professionalism at work? When Chanda Rubin found a peaked hat for her unexpected semi-final appearance against

Seles, McMillan said: "Do you think she has got a new cap endorsement suddenly?"

On his relationship with McMillan, Hewitt said: "A lot of players used to think we were not in the habit of talking on a tennis court. That is the furthest from the truth. We are just so different. I like to play golf, snow ski, water ski and fly aeroplanes. Frew does art things."

In their first tournament with Eurosport, Hewitt and McMillan worked together, but apart. The teams were Mercer and McMillan, Mercer and Hewitt, Reed and McMillan. Hewitt and McMillan together on one match was "an idea", Reed said. "They get on quite well, but at a distance." And a commentary box is smaller than a tennis court.

## British fencers foiled by French in cup

FRANCE dominated the fifth Corbeil Cup sabre international at the Guildford Spectrum centre on Saturday, despite a spirited challenge by British fencers, led by James Williams and Kirk Zavich, who both reached the last four. Ian Williams, the British No 1, was eliminated by James Williams in the round of the last 16 and finished tenth. French fencers took five of the top eight places, with Guillaume Galvez first and Antoine Williams second.

The strong French entry included the form Olympic silver medal-winner, Philippe Delaireau, in his last international season. Delaireau conceded only two hits in the first round but went out in the quarter-finals to Zavich, 15-11. Zavich lost to Galvez in the semi-finals, 15-9 while the other semi-final saw Williams defeat Williams 15-11.

Quentin Bertman won the men's title at the British Epée Championships at RAF Cosford on Saturday. The women's title went to Sheila Pearce. Through the Turnstile, page 27

## Austrians dominate

SKIING: Mario Reiter led an Austrian clean-sweep of the World Cup slalom in Sestriere, Italy, on Saturday. Leading after the first leg, Reiter finished with a time of 1min 53.79sec, with his compatriot, Thomas Sykora, 0.06sec behind in second place and Thomas Stangassinger third.

Claudia Riegler, 19, who was born in Austria, gave New Zealand only its second World Cup victory when she won the women's slalom in Serre Chevalier, France, yesterday. Third after the first run, Riegler stormed down the Olympia Luc Alphand course to finish with a combined time of 1min 31.27sec. Karin Röten, of Switzerland, was second, with a time of 1min 31.56sec, and Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, third in 1min 31.79sec.

## Slatter secures gold

SWIMMING: Helen Slatter, right, of Great Britain, collected two medals on the second day of the World Cup meeting in Espoo, Finland, yesterday. She won the 200 metres butterfly in 2min 14.78sec, and was third behind Elli Overton, of Australia, and Hana Cerna, of the Czech Republic, in the 400 metres individual medley. Compani Sarah Price took bronze in the 100 metres backstroke.



## Davison goes one better

GOLF: Chris Davison, of Great Britain, returned a third-round 70 to move within six shots of Wayne Westner, the leader, at the South African Masters in Port Edward. Davison, with a three-round total of 213, is now the leading European after David Higgins, of Ireland, recorded a disappointing 74 for a total of 214. Westner took the outright lead by two shots from the English-born Chris Williams and Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, courtesy of a two-under-par 70. His aggregate 207 leaves him on nine under par.

## Pair force way to final

REAL TENNIS: The world's No 1 doubles pairing, Chris Bray and Mike Gooding of Britain, reached the final of the US Open Real Tennis Doubles Championship with victory over Ruairach Gunn and Paul Tabley by three sets to two. Tabley started strongly, well backed up by the inexperienced Gunn, but Bray and Gooding kept their nerve, finally clinching a see-saw match with a string of winning forces from Gooding and accurate serves from Bray which kept their opponents under constant pressure.

## Westlecot clinch victory

BOWLS: A 30-8 win for a home rink skipped by Howard Pryse over an Erdington Court quartet skipped by England trialist Stuart Thomas carried Westlecot to a 75-70 victory at Swindon and a place in the last 16 of the National Mixed Inter-Club Indoor Championship yesterday. Pryse's winning margin more than covered defeats on the other three rinks. Stonyhill's Gail Fitzgerald, the only woman to skip in the zone finals, was unsuccessful. Her rink lost 28-6 at Tilbury to Graham Pereira's as Tilbury won 91-68.



## Victory for Akinwande

BOXING: Henry Akinwande, right, of Great Britain, clinched a first-round victory over Brian Sargent, of the United States, in a heavyweight bout in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday. Akinwande twice knocked Sargent down before the contest was stopped. Sargent was a replacement for Oliver McCall, the former World Boxing Council heavyweight champion, who withdrew on Thursday.

## Ball is just off target

SHOOTING: Nigel Ball, the Fleet Air Arm chief petty officer in the London and Middlesex Rifle Association shooting team, just failed to win the Tasmanian Queen's prize in Hobart. Against some of Australia's top competitors, Ball finished on 386 points, level with Andrew Halstead, of New South Wales, who won because 21 of his shots hit the central V-ring compared with 25 for Ball. Ball received the Vic Willcox Trophy for the highest score by a serviceman.

## Feats of Clay lift Manchester

BY PETER BRYAN

JON CLAY, resting at home in Leeds on Saturday evening after two hours of tobogganing and happy to settle down and watch television, took a telephone call that had him up and out and on his way immediately to the National Cycling Centre, 60 miles away.

The Manchester team, competing in the Five Cities track super league, were two men short. Clay, national champion on both road and track, was in demand to fill one of the vacancies in a bid to regain the overall lead from London.

Within the hour Clay was at the track side and ready to go into action in a series that has pulled encouraging crowds to watch the weekly go-all-the-

way racing. Two hours later, he had gained maximum points for Manchester, winning the devil-take-the-hindmost, sharing in the squad's 3,000 metres team pursuit victory and then winning the night's eight kilometres scratch race finale, in which his colleagues Chris Newton and Phil West followed him over the line.

His team, winners on the night ahead of Edinburgh and Birmingham, also took the overall lead to go into next Saturday's final round of five with 94 points to London's 87 points. Edinburgh are third with 74 points.

Belgium dominated the fourth and final round of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series at Northallerton yester-

## Giants call on Moore to deliver timely win

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

IF JAY GOLDBERG had had his wish, an addition to Saturday's long list of sporting casualties would have been Manchester Giants' Budweiser League basketball fixture at Thames Valley Tigers. In hindsight, the Giants' new managing director must have been relieved that his early-morning telephone appeals to the league and the host club were not successful.

The risk to his players on hazardous roads was, Goldberg argued, far too great. Yet not only did the Giants safely complete their journey to and from Bracknell, but they just negotiated the Tigers, too, making up arrears of 19 points to gain a dramatic 73-72 win with a basket from Joel Moore three seconds from the end.

Moore, like Goldberg, had spent most of the evening wishing he were back in Manchester. As the Giants slipped ever further behind to points accumulated for the Tigers by Peter Scanlebury, Cory Cole and Tony Holley, Moore slumped on his team's bench after engaging in heated arguments with his coach, Mike Hanks, who was only too happy to sit him out.

"All I wanted was for the guys to play with a bit more fire," Moore explained afterwards. "They were rolling over and dying. I got a little annoyed at Mike. I probably said something a little harsh and he benches me. When we were 19 points down, I suppose he thought, 'Well I might as well put Joel back on'."

It was during a time-out midway through the third quarter, with the Giants 52-53 down, that Hanks made a wise choice. Mark Robinson and Kevin St Kith carried on scoring the bulk of their points, but Moore was to come up with crucial baskets.

With a three-pointer, he shot the Giants ahead at 69-68, but, after two free throws and a jump shot from Cole had put the Tigers three points to the good, Panjie Grainger's basket gave the Giants hope. 37 seconds from the end, Moore subsequently dispossessed Holley to go down court and sink the decisive basket.

Like the Giants, two of Saturday's other winners had to make up deficits. Leakeith Humphrey's 13 points in the final quarter for Derby Storm gave them a 92-78 win over Doncaster Panthers, who had led by ten points.

Worthing Bears had trailed Leicester City Riders until 31 points from their player-coach, Colin Irish, sped them towards an 87-81 win. However, Birmingham Bullets nearly always had the edge over Hemel Hempstead Royals, finally winning 87-71 to repeat their midweek cup success on the same court.

## Britain finish tournament unbeaten with defeat of Belgium

## Giles crowns qualified success

FROM SYDNEY PRISKIN  
IN BARCELONA

TWO goals by Calum Giles from short corners sealed victory over Belgium and enabled Great Britain to finish third in the Olympic qualifying hockey tournament here yesterday. They had secured their place at the Atlanta Games the previous day with a 3-2 win over Malaysia.

In the draw made after the tournament, Britain were placed with Australia, South Korea, Malaysia, Holland and South Africa in pool B. Argentina, Germany, India, Pakistan, Spain and United States were drawn in pool A.

Malaysia's qualification sparked controversy. They gained the fifth and final place after a goalless draw with India, who lost their chance of

winning the tournament, at the expense of Canada, who crushed Belarus 7-1.

The leisurely pace of the Malaysia match led to slow handicapping in the stands. Shaih Viree, the Canada coach, obviously bitter at the outcome, called for an inquiry by the International Hockey Federation. "They should prove that they are in charge of this game," he said.

There was no slackening of effort on Britain's part as they set out yesterday determined to maintain their unbeaten record in the competition. Britain began at their usual lively pace but the Belgians, with a point to prove after winning only one of their six matches, offered a spirited challenge.

Both Laslett and Mayer were given a well-earned rest, allowing the two younger players, Hall and Hoskin, to show their paces in the front line. Mayer, however, came on as a substitute in the closing minutes. The Belgians, who lost their outside right, Berger, through injury soon after Mayer's arrival, had earlier had injury problems when Van Oost, their goalkeeper, had to go off at half-time.

In the first minute of the second half, Dewarman, a Belgium substitute, goal-



Giles, centre, is congratulated by Takher, left, and Nick Thompson after scoring against Belgium yesterday

ain slipped away, with Hoskin unable to make contact with Shaw's back-pass in the 22nd minute and Nick Thompson missing the target from Shaw's cross-pass almost on half-time.

In the first minute of the second half, Dewarman, a

Belgium substitute, ran into the circle at speed, but was dispossessed. Britain were soon back on the attack again and a centre from the right by Hall put Hoskin in possession on the left of the circle. His shot was saved by Vuylsteke, the Belgium substitute goal-

keeper, who committed an infringement while attempting to clear. The outcome was a short corner which Giles converted with some help from Nick Thompson.

After Hoskin had just missed the target in his fourth goal of the tournament, Britain laid siege to

the Britain goal but could not get near enough to score. In the 58th minute, Britain earned another short corner after Nick Thompson had been obstructed and Giles was on target for his eighth goal of the tournament.

On Saturday, Britain fought off a spirited challenge by Malaysia. A goal for Britain in the third minute by Robert Thompson was answered 11 minutes later by Nor Saiful, the Malaysia outside right, who converted a short corner.

The lead for Britain was restored by Giles, who converted a short corner in the 17th minute, and Nick Thompson put them further ahead from another short corner, in the 29th minute. Nawawi's goal from a short corner eight minutes before the end put Malaysia back in the game.

GILES: Britain 2, Malaysia 1. (L to R) Lucy (England); J. Wyeth (England); S. Singh (England); P. Foulds (England); R. Thompson (England); N. Hall (England); S. Shaw (England); R. Thompson (Holland); R. Hall (Holland); C. Hall (Holland); C. Dewarman (Belgium); M. Vuylsteke (Belgium); G. Meyer (Belgium).

BELGIUM: M. van Oost (Belgium); V. Dewarman (Belgium); T. Takher (Belgium); J. Berger (Belgium); J. Wilson (Belgium); P. Hall (Belgium); M. Beunen (Belgium); N. Koenen (Belgium); G. Dewarman (Belgium); P. Vuylsteke (Belgium); P. Foulds (England) and R. St. Rose (England) and (England).

winning 1-0 in the group matches, but the Germans every German move, this seemed to be England's day.

From the moment Suxor saw her first shot saved by Reid, the Germans were playing catch-up. Back on level terms at 3-3 when Wright could only hit the post, luck sided with England when Chandler's shot was touched by Schmidt, but tricked in around the goalkeeper's stick. Another save from Reid to keep out Merabet and England had won.

Since the competition started in 1974, no team had beaten Germany until this weekend. France proved that the champions were mortal by

winning 1-0 in the group matches, but the Germans every German move, this seemed to be England's day.

However, England had their best for the end, beating Scotland 5-4 in the semi-finals yesterday morning before taking on the champions.

In the final, England packed their defence and closed the Germans down at every opportunity. However, they were caught out by a Von Livoitus penalty corner before taking on the champions.

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## Panthers too hot to handle

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

IT IS ironic that snow and ice can disrupt ice hockey, but that was the case on Saturday, when only two of the four scheduled British League premier division matches could be played.

The eagerly awaited meeting between Sheffield and Cardiff was one of the casualties, postponed because of problems in gaining access to the Arena.

The two games that were played brought home wins for Nottingham Panthers and Fife Flyers. The Panthers beat Durham Wasps 9-3 with Neil Morgan involved in five of their goals. They led 3-1 at the end of the first period, and the Wasps could never get close enough to worry the home side. Durham's chances were

principal interest in this

division is the battle for promotion play-off places, and Guildford Flames improved their chances of qualifying with a hard-fought 5-4 win over Bracknell Bees. It enabled them to move into sixth place (the last play-off spot) ahead of the out-of-form Telford Tigers, who were

Chang overpowered in Melbourne final as German recaptures best form

## Becker turns back his Australian clock

FROM STUART JONES  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT  
IN MELBOURNE

AT THE comparatively advanced age of 28, and in the place where he least expected it to happen, Boris Becker has re-established his career. Turning full circle, he concluded half a decade without a grand-slam title by repeating his last victory, at the Australian Open.

Apart from an irrelevant third set in which he admitted to losing concentration, he assumed complete control of the final yesterday. As though in the role of a daunting schoolboy bully, he remained dispassionate as he subjected Michael Chang, six inches the shorter, to a prolonged and pitiless beating.

Maintaining the momentum that he had built since the third round — Mark Woodforde had described his experience against Becker in the semi-finals as akin to “facing a bulldozer” — he immediately flattened an opponent who had arrived without dropping a set. The flawless record was obliterated within half an hour.

Becker, looking imperiously at the net whenever he could, executed his predictably aggressive strategy so perfectly that he held two points for a 5-0 lead. Chang was startled by the initial impatience onslaught and felt for the rest of the afternoon that he was “back on his heels”.

He was forever on the balls of his feet, too. Whether with precise and firm volleys or strokes lashed from the baseline, Becker kept him scuttling from side to side, and from deep in the shadows at the back of the court to the summit, before Chang submitted 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

Chang won applause for his characteristically energetic retrieving, but rarely could he breathe easily. His service was 23 times on the point of being broken and, other than equaling Becker for aces (they were each credited with 11), he could not match the German in any aspect of the game.

Becker, in spite of his imposing authority, was surprised to win again at Flinders Park. “I couldn’t seem to get past the first hurdle here,” he said. “And if almost happened again.”

Greg Rusedski, 2-1 up in



Becker's determination enables him to reach a wide forehand during his four-set destruction of Chang in Melbourne yesterday. Photograph: Trevor Collens

sets, held two points to lead him 3-1 in the fourth set. Becker was also two sets down to Thomas Johansson in the next round. “I thought I’d had enough practice by then,” he said. Virtually irresistible thereafter, he reflected that he had been driven by the fire in his belly and controlled by the ice in his veins.

“Once he had achieved his lifelong ambition to become the No 1, when he became the

champion here in 1991, he lost impetus. Two years ago, he changed his manager, his home and gained a wife, Barbara, who gave him a purpose to revive his stagnating career. She implored him to “do it one more time for me because I’ve never seen you as a grand-slam winner”.

“I told her that I was trying my heart out but that it’s not that easy,” Becker said. Yet he redesigned his training pro-

gramme and refined his game.

He asserts, justifiably, that he is a more complete player now than in the days when he was crowned at Wimbledon (in 1985, 1986 and 1989) and at the United States Open (also in 1989). “I’m using the whole court, not half of it,” he said, “so I’m not so one-dimensional.”

The ageing process has also tempered his occasionally fret-

ful mind. “Although you are more nervous because you know that you haven’t got another ten years, you keep cool because you realise it’s only a game. I have been calmer each round here and today I was at my calmest.”

Intoxicated by his triumph, he can foresee his resurgence developing and stretching ahead. “I’m now in the autumn of my career,” he said, “but I believe I have a couple

of big ones left in me, and, as long as I’m not embarrassing myself in shorts, I’m going to go for it again.”

The grand slam [winning the Australian Open, Wimbledon and the United States Open in the same calendar year] has been a dream of mine and I’m going to give it a try. My confidence level will be so much higher going into the French Open because I’ve

proved to myself that I can do it again.”

His words will sprinkle additional spice across Roland Garros. In common with André Agassi, newly elevated to No 1, Pete Sampras, relegated to No 3, and Stefan Edberg, who will make his last appearance there, the French Open is the one title Becker requires to complete his personal set.

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Greg Rusedski, 2-1 up in



Seles is overcome by emotion at a press conference after her singles victory. Photograph: Steve Holland

## Seles struggles to control mind game

FROM STUART JONES

SUPERFICIALLY, it seemed to be the same old story. Monica Seles, her tennis racket clutched in both hands while playing strokes on either flank, won the Australian Open, as she had done in 1991, 1992 and 1993, and preserved an enviable record at Flinders Park. In 22 matches there, Seles, now 22, has never been beaten.

Behind the triumphant facade, though, changes were evident. Her body, longer and broader, is more susceptible to stress; her mind is plainly still haunted by the traumatic memory of her stabbing in Hamburg 33 months ago and there are indications that the competition in the women’s game is at last deepening.

In the past few months, Seles has been afflicted by injuries that have been working their way up her frame. She has damaged an ankle, a calf, a knee and her groin. After lifting weights in the first week of the championships, she discovered that she could barely lift her own arms.

The psychological scars, in spite of her prolonged recuperation, remain vivid. At a press conference filled with characteristic giggles, she was asked when she might consider returning to Germany to compete. The question provoked

first an anguished response, then tears and finally a premature departure.

The emotional turmoil had been stirred initially by the realisation that her capacity to collect grand-slam titles was undiminished.

Although the favourite in the absence through injury of Steffi Graf, she seemed to harbour more doubts than anyone else that she would fulfil the fortnight as the champion.

She prevailed because she retains the one quality that continues to set her and Graf apart from the rest. Of the past 33 grand-slam championships, they have won, between them, all but seven, primarily through their conviction in moments of crisis. They consistently play the big points

with firmer hands and cooler heads than their peers.

Seles withheld a grave threat in the semi-final when she was twice on the point of falling 1-5 behind to Chanda Rubin in the final. She also confessed to being in potential “deep, deep trouble” midway through the first set of the final against Anke Huber.

Both players had dug a trench along the baseline and, treating the ball with equal violence, countered each other’s sound effects. Every blow was accompanied by either an explosive squeal from Huber or a full-throated roar from Seles. The top seed had been broken, to love, and was 2-3 down 6-4, 6-1.

The margin was deceptively wide and Huber, though yet to take a set off Seles in their seven matches, felt that she had forged more chances than ever before. Two months ago, in the final of the Women’s Tennis Association tour championship in New York, she stretched Graf to a fifth set.

Anranta Sánchez Vicario,

with three grand-slam titles, Conchita Martínez, Gabriela Sabatini and Mary Pierce, with one each, are the only women still playing to have intruded upon the dominance of the leading pair in the past eight years but their challenge has been neither substantial nor consistent. It would be unrealistic to expect any of them to close the established gap.

However, a fresh group is emerging, as confirmed by the new rankings issued today. Huber has broken into the top five, Rubin into the top ten and Martina Hingis, 15, is within two places of being seeded at the next grand-slam championship, the French Open.

Mark Woodforde, of Australia, and Larisa Neiland beat Luke Jensen and Nicole Arendt 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 for the mixed doubles title.

Edberg’s winning exit

STEFAN EDBERG bade a

suitable farewell to Flinders Park on Saturday, grasping another trophy (Stuart Jones writes).

Twice the champion, and the most popular of foreigners, the Swede took the men’s doubles championship, for the second time.

In a final featuring the

two best of two unseeded pairs,

Edberg and Peter Korda beat

Sébastien Lareau and Alex

O’Brien 7-5, 7-5, 4-6, 6-1.

opportunities for Huber to extend her lead.

Once she had been defied, her own resistance crumbled and, although she was credited with hitting more winners overall, she claimed only two more games in going down 6-4, 6-1.

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It lasted a quarter of an hour,

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Manchester savours FA Cup draw

# Prospect of derby gives extra incentive to City

By JOHN GOODBODY

MANCHESTER United got a spicy reward for their 3-0 victory away to Reading on Saturday when the convoluted draw for the FA Cup fifth round was made in London yesterday.

United, one of only two clubs definitely through from a fourth round so badly affected by the weather, got a home tie against the winners of the tie between Coventry City and Manchester City. The prospect of a match at Old Trafford against United, beaten finalists last season, will give even greater incentive for their neighbours when they travel to Highfield Road for the rearranged tie on Saturday.

United are bidding to reach the final for the third successive year. They have already played in a record 13 finals, winning eight of them, a feat which only Tottenham Hotspur have equalled.

The Manchester neighbours have met on only four previous occasions in the FA Cup, with two wins apiece. United have been dominant recently, winning the last meeting, in January 1987, when Norman Whiteside's solitary goal was decisive in a third-round tie.

Before the tie, the United assistant manager, Brian Kidd, scored twice as United triumphed 3-0 in a fourth-round tie in 1970. City's two victories came in 1955, when Don Revie was a scorer in a 2-0 win, and 1926, when United won a semi-final 3-0.

Steve Bruce, the United captain, said: "It is a great draw. Thank goodness we are at home. If City beat Coventry,



beaten their more illustrious rivals in any competition since a 5-1 league win at Maine Road in September 1989. Despite United's form, William Hill only has them as second favourites for the trophy, at 7-2. Liverpool, who have to negotiate their way to Shrewsbury Town if they are to be at home to Charlton Athletic or Brentford, are 3-1 favourites.

The bookmakers did not impress Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, who made the draw with Peter Beardsey, his fellow England international, at Lancaster Gate. Adams said: "United are a

superb side. I would not bet against them."

Keith Curle, the Manchester City captain, urged caution as his side tried to focus on the rearranged fixture with Coventry. "There is no point getting carried away because we have a very difficult tie still to come," Curle said.

"Mind you, it is not a bad tie if we do get through. I could not believe it when I heard the draw. I had to double-check. It is just our luck that it is away from home, but if we can beat Coventry then we will give it everything."

Manchester City have not

secured a place in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, where they will play Arsenal, are confident of another good Cup run.

Andy Townsend, the Ireland and Villa midfield player, said: "If Ipswich beat Walsall it will be a tough game for us, but at the moment we are in good spirits. I think we are playing half-decent, and we look forward to going there."

The draw was uniquely complicated. Mike Collett, author of *The Guinness Record of the FA Cup*, confirmed yesterday that a record number of clubs had gone into the draw for the fifth round. Saturday was football's worst day for postponements for 33 years, with 55 games in England and Scotland being called off.

In the 1962-63 season, the third round took 66 days to complete, with 22 different playing days and a total of 261 postponements. It was scheduled to take place on January 5, but only three matches went ahead, and the round was eventually completed on March 11. Sixteen attempts were made to play the tie between Birmingham City and Bury.

However, only once has an entire round been wiped out by the weather. That was the fifth round on February 8, 1969, when all eight matches were postponed.

The draw yesterday brings the prospect of a London Premiership derby. If West Ham beat Grimsby Town, they would have a home fixture against either Queens Park Rangers or Chelsea, who meet tonight at Loftus Road.

The rearranged games are being played next week, and Terry Venables, the England coach, must be hoping that none of them are postponed or go to replays. This is because any tie would have to be held during the following week, when England are having a pre-European championship get-together, from February 12 to 14, at Aston Villa's training ground — a rare occasion for Venables to have some unhampered preparation with his squad without having to concentrate on an international match.



Van Hooijdonk beats the Whitehill Welfare defence to score Celtic's first goal at Easter Road yesterday. Photograph: Chris Bacon

## Whitehill fare well thanks to Cantley

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

experienced the ignominy of defeat by non-League opposition in the Scottish Cup. On that occasion they were comfortably beaten, 4-2, by the Renfrewshire club, Arthurlie. A local draper then gave each member of the winning team a hat with the match details inscribed on the inside.

These were treasured items, destined to become family heirlooms, and one of them was even found in Canada, to where one of the players had emigrated. The game itself, however, was played in 1897 and Celtic have never permitted themselves to be overcome by non-League adversaries since.

Whitehill's feat in even participating in this match deserved to be honoured. Last week, the local paper in Midlothian printed on the front page a message of support in the club's colours. Some might have wondered, however, whether the game would end in the sort of rout that would require a black border for the report in next week's edition.

Whitehill had far too much pride, and Celtic far too little sharpness, for that. Cantley's extraordinary series of saves stretched across the entire afternoon, but Burns's team never overwhelmed him with work. Indeed, Celtic recorded their first goal only six minutes from the interval.

With long-awaited incisiveness, John Collins sent Andy Walker through to deliver a low cross that Pierre van Hooijdonk turned into the net. It was only in the 76th minute, however, that Celtic began to add bulk to the margin of victory. A deep cross from Collins was headed back across the target by Morten Wieghorst for the substitute, Simon Donnelly, to finish.

Ten minutes from the end, a corner from Collins and flick by Wieghorst allowed Van Hooijdonk, at the far post, to roll in his nineteenth goal of the season. By then, though, it was far too late for Celtic to disguise the insipidness of their performance. "We let our standards slip," Burns said.

The value of the day for him may really have lain in the opportunity it provided to give Brian O'Neil his first appearance, as a substitute, since he underwent knee surgery in May. Celtic now have a home tie against Raith Rovers in the fourth round.

TENNIES SCOTTISH CUP FOURTH ROUND: Clyde or Dundee v Rangers; Clydebank or Ayrshire; Celtic v Raith Rovers; Dumbarton or Airdrieonians v Partick Thistle; Berwick Rangers v Dunfermline Athletic or St Mirren; Numinous v Heart of Midlothian or Partick Thistle; Falkirk or Stenhousemuir v Caledonian Thistle or East Fife; Hamilton Academical or Johnstone v Greenock Morton or Morton.

Tie to be played on Saturday, February 17

**Fifth round draw**  
Shrewsbury Town or Liverpool v Charlton Athletic or Brentford  
Nottingham Forest or Oxford United v Tottenham Hotspur or Wolverhampton Wanderers  
Bolton Wanderers or Leeds United v Everton or Port Vale  
Ipswich Town or Walsall v Aston Villa  
Swindon Town or Oldham Athletic v Southampton or Crewe Alexandra  
Manchester United v Coventry City or Manchester City  
Huddersfield Town or Peterborough United v Middlesbrough or Wimborne  
West Ham United or Grimsby Town v Queens Park Rangers or Chelsea

□ Matches to be played weekend of February 17, 18 and 19.

**Rescheduled fourth-round ties**

Tues February 6  
Shrewsbury Town v Liverpool  
Ipswich Town v Walsall  
Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United  
Charlton Athletic v Brentford  
Huddersfield Town v Peterborough United

Weds February 7  
Coventry City v Manchester City  
Middlesbrough v Wimbledon  
Nottingham Forest v Oxford United

Southampton v Crewe Alexandra  
Swindon Town v Oldham Athletic  
West Ham United v Grimsby Town

**Fourth-round replays**

Tues February 6  
Port Vale v Everton

Weds February 7  
Wolverhampton Wanderers v Tottenham Hotspur

## Report on Reading goes to FA

READING will be reported to the Football Association after a coin was thrown at an official during the second half of their 3-0 defeat against Manchester United at Elm Park (Russell Kempson writes). A 10p piece struck Jeff Pettit, one of the linesmen, above his left eyebrow. He recovered after treatment and finished the game.

"It will be in my report to the FA," Jeff Winter, the referee, said. "The matter is now in the hands of the police because they believe they know who threw the coin." John Madejski, the Reading chairman, said: "This sort of things rears its ugly head from time to time. It's just the mindless element at work again. If the police have got the culprit on camera, this club won't be seeing him again."

Michael Thompson, 41, the millionaire businessman who assumed control of Swansea City at the weekend, will begin his search for a new manager for the second division strugglers within the next few days. Thompson said he has sufficient resources to take the club to the first division.

Rumours circulated in the city that he was attempting to secure the services of Ian Rush, the record Wales goalscorer, who might follow the same route from Liverpool to Swansea that John Toshack took in the late 1970s.

Thompson bought the club from Doug Sharpe, who had been at the helm for a decade. Sharpe, plus Glyn Hammond and Mai Grumus, remain on the board.

## Burton makes Millwall pay for lack of unity

By ALISON RUDD

SAT high in the less than half-full stadium in the calm chill, the Portsmouth supporters sang their "Pompey" chimes. All around was quiet and still, the more so with only three other football matches being played in the country, but then the raucous Millwall supporters spoilt it.

It seemed that Portsmouth, down to ten men and a goal behind within half an hour, drew strength from the sneers, which were directed by the home supporters at their own side.

The adage that a team that wins when playing badly will take the title has been of concern to anyone who has seen Millwall this season.

Mick McCarthy's side led the Enderby Insurance League first division for much of the early part of the campaign playing tired, uninspiring football.

Even now, without a home win since mid-November, Millwall can sneak into the top six. If they were to win back a rapport with their supporters, the repercussions could be serious.

A counsellor would have a field day. Millwall's drop in form coincided with McCarthy expressing an interest in taking over from Jack Charlton and heading Ireland's World Cup qualifying campaign. All sorts of people have been touted as possible successors to Charlton, but the two favourites remain McCarthy and Joe Kinnear.

The arrival of Kulkov and Yuran from Spartak Moscow has not helped, either. One Brazilian arrives and the Riverside Stadium turns green and yellow in paroxysms of delight. Two Russians arrive in Bermondsey and Danny Baker buys a fury bat. At least on Saturday Yuran set up Millwall's goal, interchanging passes with Melkin and then feeding Van Blerk. Kulkov, though, only seems able to play off his comrade.

Kulkov, he sees passes and believes players should be there that maybe aren't there. McCarthy explained. It is never quite clear whether McCarthy is criticising his other players for not being clever enough or explaining that his Russian imports need a lot more time to adapt. So, while everyone in the Millwall camp

needed each other, Burton, a precious 19-year-old home-grown Portsmouth player, equalised with a splendid left-footed shot from 20 yards that gently curled past Tim Carter, the Millwall goalkeeper.

Jimmy Carter suffered a predictable haranguing. Carter was a Millwall player in the late 1980s but found transfers to Liverpool and Arsenal to be slightly overambitious and arrived in Portsmouth on a free transfer. If ever a player looked destined to cover only the right flank of a football field, then Carter was him.

However, Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, has convinced Carter he can play a central midfield role and the poor form that scarred the player's arrival on the south coast and led to a transfer request has been turned around. Carter even scampered around the left wing and acted as an emergency centre forward on Saturday. All is peaceful, then, in the Fenwick camp and Portsmouth ought to be able to improve on their modest league position.

Millwall need a dose of harmony, too. At least the Football Association of Ireland will name their choice of manager this week. If McCarthy is it, he might want to think twice before persuading any Russians that they have Irish grandparents.

Match report: 4-1 to Charlton — B. Norman, A. Weller, K. Stevens, B. Thatcher — G. Seaga (sub: S. Taylor, 76min), J. Connolly, J. Kinnear, J. van Blerk — S. Yuran, C. Makin, PORTSMOUTH (4-2): A. Knight — R. Phipps, B. Carter, P. R. Thompson, J. Dunn (sub: J. Rees, 75), A. McLoughlin, P. Wood — P. Walsh (sub: D. Burton, 38), P. Hall. Referee: J. Kinnear.

Carter relishing move to central role

## Yeboah on the mark for Ghana

A GOAL by Tony Yeboah, the Leeds United forward, gave Ghana a 1-0 victory over a Zaire side reduced to ten men in a heated African Nations' Cup quarter-final in Port Elizabeth yesterday.

Yeboah, who has scored 15 goals in the FA Carling Premiership this season, was also involved in a controversial off-the-ball incident in the 15th minute, when he allegedly elbowed Ntumba Danga, a defender, in the face. The referee, however, did not see the incident. Five minutes later, another Zaire defender, Nzeo Lembi, was sent off for aiming a kick at Abedi Pele, who tormented the opposition throughout.

The only goal came three minutes after the dismissal of Lembi. Pele, who plays for the Italian club Torino, beat two defenders before pulling a cross back to the near post. Although the Zaire goalkeeper, Pangi Merikani, seemed to have it covered, Yeboah's predatory instincts got him to the ball first.

Pele's supremacy was only curtailed when he hurt his left ankle seven minutes from time, an injury that will keep him out of the semi-final against the hosts, South Africa, on Wednesday. It is doubtful, too, that he would recover in time for the final if his team-mates triumph in Johannesburg.

"It was a tough, physical game and we made plenty of mistakes," Yeboah said. "But the important thing is that we learnt from them."

Photograph, page 24

## Rangers insist defeat is not the end for Wilkins

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IF ONE believes one of the more speculative tales circulating on football's grapevine, Ray Wilkins, the Queens Park Rangers manager, faces his moment of destiny at Loftus Road tonight. Should Chelsea, the visitors, win the FA Cup fourth-round tie, Wilkins will be on his way after only 14 months in charge.

Defeat would leave Rangers with nothing this season but a fight against losing their place in the FA Carling Premiership and the lucrative perks that go with it. They sit in 19th place and have lost five successive matches, and Wilkins has been forced to blood and persist with several young players.

However, Peter Ellis, the Rangers chairman, is quick to dismiss reports that he is preparing to leave. "Wilkins's P45. There is no question of this match being Ray's Waterloo," he said yesterday. "He has a big future in management and hopefully, at this club."

"People forget he took us to the sixth round of the Cup last season and, after we had flirted with relegation, we finished in the top half of the table. People have very short memories and job security is something we haven't had a need to talk about here."

Kevin Gallen, the Rangers striker, also ignores the rumour factory. "When results aren't going for you, there's always this type of talk," he said. "It doesn't help us or the club. You've just got to forget it and get on with it. Perhaps the Cup will give us the chance to

get the show back on the road. We've got home advantage and a great chance."

In contrast, Chelsea, tenth in the Premiership, have struck a rich vein of form; one defeat in 13 matches. Ruud Gullit, the elegant Dutchman, deserves much of the praise that has been heaped on Stamford Bridge recently, yet his team-mates have responded with increasing self-confidence. During Gullit's sixth match absence in late November and early December, Chelsea lost only once.

"A lot of people said we would really struggle when Gullit was missing but that's not been the case," Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said. "Although it's great when he comes back, we've proved that we can cope

without him."

Chelsea have to prove, too, that they can cope tonight without Mark Hughes and Dennis Wise, who are suspended. Paul Furlong and Gavin Peacock are likely to replace them.

"It's always a blow to lose good players but it at least offers the chance to give other people opportunities," Hoddle said. "Paul and Gavin have been very unlucky to be out of the side, and it's been tough for me to make those decisions, but I can now call on them with no worries."

"It has reached the stage where I sit on the bench being entertained by the football we are playing. Of course, there is always a bit of tension for a manager, but I'm really enjoying watching the side. If that's the case, then other people must be enjoying it, too."

Hoddle, a former England player with Wilkins, took his squad for a three-day break in Spain last week, where the rain fell mainly on the golf courses. Although it restricted the recreational value of the trip, Hoddle felt that the rest and recuperation, after a hectic spell of four matches in 14 days, was invaluable.

"I always want my players to play good football and, in the last few months, they have got closer than ever before to what I want from them," he said. "Even when we reached the FA Cup final two years ago, and the semi-final of the European Cup Winners' Cup last season, we were not playing as well as we are now."



Wilkins has the support of the Rangers chairman

Everton again look vulnerable against Endsleigh League opposition

## Holders' grip loosened by Vale threat

Everton ..... 2  
Port Vale ..... 2

By PETER BALL

IF EVERTON are to become only the fourth team to retain the FA Cup this century, they will have done it the hard way. On Saturday, for the second round in succession, they failed to dispose of Endsleigh Insurance League opposition at Goodison Park. Port Vale more than earned their draw in a dramatic finale.

So, after Stockport, Burslem. "We're going by the scenic route this time," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, quipped as he contemplated the fourth-round replay on Wednesday week. "Last year we were powerful at home, but we probably played worse today than we did against Stockport here."

That is a warning for Port Vale, since Everton won at Edgeley Park after making a terrible fist of things at Goodison. Judged on Saturday's performance, though,



Port Vale have only their opponents' greater height to fear. The only time Everton looked dangerous was from corners and free kicks, when Dave Watson, their outstanding player, Ablett and Short came forward to join Duncan Griffiths in aerial assaults.

It produced one goal, and some near misses. Ferguson and Amokachi hitting the same post after one corner, with Ablett's follow-up effort blocked on the line, but otherwise Port Vale stood firm.

Aspin, who played through the second injury with a hamstring injury, was outstanding, bald head gleaming in the floodlights as he held the fort determinedly, and alongside him, Griffiths was resolute. The £1,000 buy from Rhyl had been drafted in at someone who, at 4ft 4in, could meet the £4 million Ferguson eyeball to eyeball, and he did so nobly, in spite of picking up a yellow card after only eight minutes.

"He's by far the strongest lad I've played against. I wouldn't fancy playing him every week," Griffiths said. "But it was a good experience, and I don't mind doing it one more time."

Ferguson and the tall defenders apart, Everton had



Griffiths, left, and Ferguson duel for possession at Goodison Park. Their confrontation was one of the highlights of a 2-2 draw. Photograph: Simon Mooney

nothing to offer. Stuart was anonymous. Kanchelskis' touch deserted him, and only Amokachi gave any sign of quality in attack. If Royle's desire to give his side greater width made bringing on Limpar understandable, taking off Amokachi was an extraordinary decision.

Port Vale, by contrast, rose to the occasion with relish.

"You see these games against Stockport and Port Vale, and you think it's laughable, but when you have to play them it's not so funny," Limpar said.

Guppy and McCarthy ran riot down the wings so that, by the hour, Everton had

changed both full backs, Parkinson swapping with Horne at half-time and Hinchcliffe coming on to replace Ablett, who had a bad afternoon defensively. If the finishing of Foyle and Taylor had matched their movement and touch in the build-up, Port Vale could have had the game safely won by half-time.

But Ebbrell blocked McCarty's shot on the line after the winger had beaten both Ablett and Short, and, after McCarty had left Stuart bemused, his perfect, low cross, deflected by Short, was put over the bar from less than five yards by Foyle, as Tottenham will remember.

Musselwhite got to Watson's header but could only knock it up and, as it came down, Amokachi rose highest to head home from under the bar. He is lethal from a yard in Cup ties, as Tottenham will remember.

striker said. Instead, after Ferguson, too, had missed an easy chance, Everton took the lead. Amokachi forcing a corner and then scoring from it.

"We always knew we were going to be struggling with their height and power at set-pieces, so we had said: 'Try not to give set-pieces away,'" John Rudge, the Port Vale manager said.

Musselwhite got to Watson's header but could only knock it up and, as it came down, Amokachi rose highest to head home from under the bar. He is lethal from a yard in Cup ties, as Tottenham will remember.

For Port Vale to go in behind at half-time was unjust, so that the snowflakes which had drifted slowly across Goodison Park at the start disappeared, that seemed likely to be that. But there was high drama to come.

With two minutes remaining, Musselwhite, until then one of Vale's solid defenders, connived at a schoolboy howler, dropping Limpar's innocuous cross at Ferguson's feet. "I might have taken my eye off it," the goalkeeper said. "A mistake like that — I just wanted the ground to swallow me up."

As the game moved towards its close and the chill of a

frozen afternoon grew deeper, so that the snowflakes which had drifted slowly across Goodison Park at the start disappeared, that seemed likely to be that. But there was high drama to come.

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Help, though, was at hand in the form of Guppy and Ian

Reid.

## Defenders state case for review of Taylor's deficiencies

Tottenham Hotspur ..... 1  
Wolverhampton W ..... 1

By PAT GIBSON

NOT too many people have had a good word to say about Graham Taylor since he was hounded out of Molineux by the baying Wolverhampton Wanderers supporters early last month, but Mark McGee, his successor as manager, certainly did after the team he inherited had frustrated Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane.

Taylor was responsible for taking Dean Richards, Neil Embien and Eric Young to Wolverhampton and the three of them, playing together at the heart of the defence, were the main reasons why Tottenham will have to run the gauntlet of one of the most passionate crowds in English football when this FA Cup fourth-round tie is replayed a week on Wednesday.

McGee did not have to be a managerial genius to know that the greatest Tottenham threat was going to come from Sheringham and Armstrong, who have scored more goals for the FA Carling Premiership side this season than the entire Wolverhampton team have managed in the first division of the Endsleigh Insurance League.

His answer to the problem was to give Young and Richards the specific tasks of marking Sheringham and Armstrong man-for-man, leaving Embien to tidy up in between them. It worked so well that Armstrong was contained to just two fleeting opportunities while Sheringham had what amounted to no more than half a chance.

No one questioned the wisdom of Taylor when he spent £1.3 million on Richards, 21, from Bradford City or £750,000 on Embien, 24, from Millwall. They were obviously players of considerable potential but he had to endure some

Full results and league tables ... Page 26

ridicule when he picked up Young, 35, on a free transfer from Crystal Palace. It was the fact that he got him for nothing that looked faintly ridiculous on Saturday.

Richards was the one who caught the eye because he is such a rarity in the English game, a ball-playing centre half. McGee is resigned to losing him if he cannot give him Premiership football by the end of next season.

Interestingly, however, both McGee and Taylor, the latter snugly insulated from the cold outside in the warmth of a television studio in the stands, singled out Young for highest praise.

"It was a question of identifying the danger and concentrating on that," McGee said. "I think Sheringham is the most complete centre forward in England, a clever player who can get the others going, and Eric gave Teddy a difficult day."

"There were a lot of question marks at Wolverhampton over the fact that he was signed at all and, to be fair, Graham's signing of him has been justified by what he's done for us."

"He does not come across as an over-confident lad but he's got everything you need in a centre half. He knows what he's trying to do and he gets on with it."

The rest of the Wolverhampton players knew what they were trying to do as well, which was to pass the ball around in the approved McGee manner rather than move it forward quickly in the more direct style of Taylor. It was ironic, therefore, that an attempt by Thompson to follow the instructions of his new manager should have helped to give Tottenham the lead in the thirteenth minute. His pass across the face of the defence evaded Young, and Wilson seized on it to drive in his first goal for Tottenham.

It would have been enough to win the game had not Austin suffered a similar aberration 15 minutes later. He had plenty of time to clear when he beat Goodman to a flick by Bull, but instead he chose to pass back to his

goalkeeper.

The attempt was underhit and, as Walker lunged into a desperate tackle, the strength of Goodman became the prevailing factor and the ball spun back into an empty net.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2) 1: Walker — D Austin, C Calderwood, G Madubu, J Edinburgh, F Fox, D Oakley, S Campbell, C Thompson, E Young; N Menezes, M Stewart — M Rankine, E Young, N Menezes, D Richards, A Thompson — M Atiles, S Gibson, D Ferguson — D Goodman, S Bull. Referee: J Read.

## Skilful Reading pay high price for aspirations beyond victory

Reading ..... 0  
Manchester United ..... 3

By SIMON BARNES

THERE was a time when you would have walked towards this fixture, rubbing your hands with anticipation: towards a classic four-cornered shack, roofed with corrugated metal that rises from a sea of little red houses; from which the front-room is separated from the street by a single door. Football country.

Perhaps we should have a Campaign for Real Football Grounds. But, instead, increasingly, we get zoned development, things called stadia, set amid copious car-parking potential on light-industrial estates. Elm Park, Reading, is a throw-back.

The pitch, thanks to the marginally balmy weather of the Thames Valley and a huge amount of thought and labour, was playable. In other times, it might have been a classic upset pitch — perfectly playable, but causing bizarre bounces and bobbles designed to put the big boys off their smooth, clever passing game.

The trouble is that Reading also play a smooth, clever passing game. These days, few lower division sides go into their Cup-ties roaring with underdog spirit and chipper aggression. Long balls, whack and harry them out of it, up and at 'em; that is for wimps.

Over a mad 90 minutes, anyone can beat anyone at football, if it comes to a battle of pure spirit. But Reading took Manchester United on in a contest of pure football, and came second best. Well, they would, wouldn't they? It's only logical.

"A good footballing side," the United manager, Alex Ferguson, said afterwards. "One of the best in the first division. But not of course, good enough to go to the

logical football as United. But they knew in their hearts that they were not.

Reading, driven by two 36-year-old player-managers, Quinn and Gooding, played some excellent stuff. But Morley twice put chances wide. Noguera was too slowly on to Gooding's cross and Reading, having given it their best shot, could now only lose gracefully.

There is a complex relationship between skill and fitness, and as Reading began to flag, so United did not. It was the start of the Giggs and Keane show. They took turns to burst from midfield, one drifting past his markers, the other going straight through them. Both men and their methods were equally cruel, equally effective.

None of the misses was a culpable, hang-your-head-in-shame kind of error. But perhaps the nature of the misses revealed something about the Reading aspirations. They wanted to show they were as good at pure,

decline, along with hopes that it was temporary. How long ago seems.

The second half was routine. United rising to an icy peak of self-confidence. There was nothing left to worry them. Still, it took a bizarre few moments to get their second. Parker came on as a substitute and was booked for his first touch. His second touch was a goal of startling quality, racing up the right touchline and letting fly.

The shot was unstoppable and, if it was intended to be a cross, never mind. United bossed the rest of the game and, just before going home time, Butt decided it was high time he had a mighty surge from midfield. That set up

Alas, poor Reading. They seem doomed to grace their own greatest occasions with solid football, and to come comfortably second. Last spring, I saw their traumatic Endsleigh Insurance League first-division pitch-off final against Bolton Wanderers. They won the first half comprehensively, 2-0, but lost 4-3 after extra time and a missed penalty. On that occasion, Reading tried to take the passion out of the game and to close it out professionally. And they paid the price.

They went into this game with skill first and passion second. The price was the same. You can analyse football until you are purple in the face but, in the end, you are forced to conclude that football is not a rational pursuit. Reading went into their Cup-tie with a game-plan based on logic. Logically, they lost. Those are the cold facts.

READING (4-4-2-2): N Heggard — T Jones, A Berry, P Wilfert, M Gilkes — P Peronon (sub: M Maher, 75min), P Horne, C Keane, D Noguera (sub: J Lampert, 70 — J Oduber (sub: A Lampert, 70), T Morley).

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — P Neville (sub: P Parker, 55), S Bruce, G Neville, D Iron, R Giggs, R Cole, N Butt, L Sharpe — E Cantona — A Cole. Referee: J Read.



Cantona, scorer of Manchester United's third goal, leaps to avoid Hammond, the Reading goalkeeper

## Where there's a will but not always a way to stop Giggs

Russell Kempson on Manchester United's triumph over psychic power at Elm Park

where he plots his weird and wonderful global exploits. He counts Ronny Rosenthal, the Tottenham Hotspur striker and fellow Israeli among his many footballing friends.

Since he started supporting the Endsleigh Insurance League club, its fortunes have risen sharply — runners-up in the first division, beaten by Bolton Wanderers in the play-off final at Wembley, Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finalists.

Although Mick Gooding and Jimmy Quinn, Reading's joint player-managers, have taken most of the plaudits, Geller indulged in his favourite pastime.

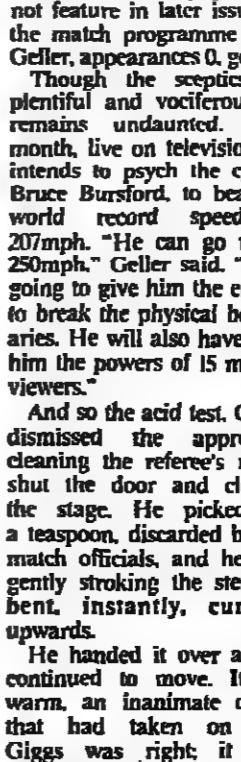
He bent a spoon for Sir Bobby Charlton, the Manchester United director. "He asked me how I did it," Geller said. "He was amazed." He melted a spoon in the hand of Albert Cantona, father of United's Eric. "Impossible," Cantona Sr said. A week earlier, when Ferguson, the United manager, had visited Elm Park on a reconnaissance mission, he, too, witnessed canting cutlery.

"We use only ten per cent of our mind power," Geller said. "All I'm saying is that there is always room to use that little bit more. It is a belief in the powers of positive thinking. Bending spoons is just one way of illustrating it."

Geller, 49, has followed Reading for 1½ years, with his wife, Hanna, and children, David, 15, and Natalie, 13. They live at nearby Sonning, the old worlde village on the banks of the Thames, from

best in 124 years," he said. "I'm not totally normal, of course I'm not, but I've found that talking to people, the fans, can make a difference. Again, it's positive thinking, a sort of psychological pep-talk. If the fans can think this way, can believe in their team, concentrate on it and send a message, it can help."

When Geller was involved with a club in Cyprus in 1963, he won the national cup. "It's déjà vu," he said. "It's happening again, here. We will be in the Premiership before the millennium is up. I know it."



When Reading beat Bristol City 1-0 at Elm Park last season, with a last-minute goal from Michael Gilkes, Geller claimed to have willed the ball into the net. Strangely, he did not feature in later issues of the match programme — Geller, appearances 0, goals 1.

Though the sceptics are plentiful and vociferous, he remains undaunted. Next month, live on television, he intends to psych the cyclist, Bruce Bursford, to beat the world record speed of 207mph. "He can go up to 250mph," Geller said. "I am going to give him the energy to break the physical boundaries. He will also have with him the powers of 15 million viewers."

And so the acid test. Geller dismissed the apprentice cleaning the referee's room, shut the door and cleared the stage. He picked up a teaspoon, discarded by the match officials, and held it, gently stroking the stem. It bent, instantly, curving upwards.

He handed it over and it continued to move. It felt warm, an inanimate object that had taken on life.

Giggs was right; it was time for a swift, dumbfounded departure.

The rest of the Wolverhampton players knew what they were trying to do as well, which was to pass the ball around in the approved McGee manner rather than move it forward quickly in the more direct style of Taylor. It was ironic, therefore, that an attempt by Thompson to follow the instructions of his new manager should have helped to give Tottenham the lead in the thirteenth minute. His pass across the face of the defence evaded Young, and Wilson seized on it to drive in his first goal for Tottenham.

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FA CUP



## A first for Russia as Bonaly is denied sixth title

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN BIRMINGHAM

SOMETHING special was needed to lift the depression hanging over British observers of the women's final in the European figure skating championships here on Saturday. A Union flag hanging over us from the roof of the Winter Sports Hall served only to emphasise the sense of isolation as 13 other countries competed for the title and, for the first time, a prize of \$20,000 [about £13,000].

France, among others, had a full quota of three skaters in spite of a weakened team because of illness and injury. But Stephanie Mair, the British champion, was absent after a nightmare experience in the previous day's short programme.



Slutskaya: superb routine

Then that "something special" happened, and the spirits were unexpectedly lifted by a performance of charm and expertise which transcended national preference and prejudice.

It came in the delightful shape of Irina Slutskaya, an effervescent Muscovite who is still 12 days short of her seventeenth birthday. She became the first skater from Russia, whether as a sovereign state or a part of the Soviet Union, to win the championship since it was first instituted in 1930.

The honour had eluded even Oksana Baiul, who won both world and Olympic gold medals in recent years but under the Ukrainian banner. Slutskaya's success brought to an end a sequence of five successive victories by Surya Bonaly, who was, consequently, denied the achievement of six titles won by Sonja Henie (1931-36) and Katarina Witt (1983-88).

It has been a poor season for the Frenchwoman, so much so that she was persuaded to change her programme only a few weeks ago and was, therefore, not as fully prepared as she will hope to be for the world championships in Canada in March. Even so, for most judges, there was a chasm between her frantic, gymnastic approach and the fresh, flowing style of Slutskaya.

The Russian even countered Bonaly's main weapon, with six triple jumps out of six, whereas the Frenchwoman, 22, failed badly with a seventh, a toe loop. Moreover, she warns us, she still has a secret to unleash at the appropriate moment.

Given the money now on offer to skaters in a sport where the word "amateur" no longer exists, it is likely that Slutskaya will remain in competition for many years to come.

Sabre fencing is one of the fastest of all sports. Given greater sponsorship, and a little luck, it could yet become one of the fastest growing. Participation, however, is a pipedream unless you possess the speed of a squash player, the mind of a chess strategist and can come up with frequent impulsive Gallic gestures.

For the language of sabre fencing remains intrinsically French, even in mock-Tudor Surrey. It is a sport that reeks of tradition, of duels, of jousts, of the ancient universities. Besides, Frenchmen evidently still make for highly competent sabreurs: five of the eight quarter-finalists at the Corfe Cup, staged in Guildford on Saturday, were from France. They looked the part because they were the part.

They are heirs to a noble tradition. The tapering blade was once a cold-blooded instrument. Sabres were rated at any aggression from the foe.

## Youngsters join Oakes in providing hope for Olympics

# Promise of youth puts Britain on right track

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE is something about Olympic year that lifts the spirit of youth. Not since Steve Smith, David Grindley and Curtis Robb burst into the limelight in 1992 has British athletics appeared as fresh-faced as it was ready to take the Olympic champion's scalp indoors. Christie will not be running in the European indoor championships but is booked for the Ricoh Tour meeting in Birmingham on February 10 and the temptation for Gardner to race him there may prove irresistible.

Lease appears to have guided Gardner intelligently through the difficult transition from junior to senior territory. Second in the 100 metres at the 1994 world junior championships, Gardner entered the senior ranks last summer and performed well enough to be selected for the relay team at the world championships in Gothenburg. "We said it was going to be a two-year project because we know the problems of stepping into the seniors," Lease explained.

Most of Britain's best sprinters hail from London but Gardner is an exception, coming from Bath. "No indoor facilities is the first disadvantage he has had to overcome," Lease said.

Rare, too, is the sight of a British pole vaulter defeating a Russian, but 22-year-old Buckfield's clearance of 5.50 metres not only beat the 15-year British indoor record, it split the Russian pair.

While one British vaulter was in the foreground, there were two in the background.

Lease, though he trains Gardner, is Britain's senior national pole vault coach. Chris Bowman, coach to Britain's new 1500 metres revelation, Anthony Whiteman, is a vaulter in the British League.

Whiteman, 24, became Britain's sixth fastest indoor 1500 metres man with no opposition and no pacemaker. He recorded 3min 39.47sec, enough, perhaps, to make him change his mind on the question of whether to train with Noureddine Morceli, the world champion and world record-holder.

John Bicourt, Whiteman's manager, had made mention to him of such an opportunity.

"I told John that I did not think I was good enough to do that yet, that he would just blow

me away." Whiteman said. "John said that you have got to think about how good you could become. Maybe now I have got to rethink."

Two young British women also excelled. Michelle Dunkley, barely 18, equalled the British junior high jump record with 1.86 metres and

Catherine Murphy, 20, recorded the fifth fastest 200 metres by a British woman, in 23.46sec, though neither won her event. Dunkley is from Kettering but Murphy is from all over the place: she was born in Sheffield, runs for Wales, lives in Hemel Hempstead and trains in London.

Lease, who set a British indoor record for the pole vault in Birmingham



Buckfield, who set a British indoor record for the pole vault in Birmingham

## Putting it all on the line for shot at Atlanta

Shaun Pickering tells David Powell that he was happy to give up a lucrative career to pursue his goal and honour his famous father

years, who changed Lynn Davies from a triple jumper into an Olympic long jump champion, who was a national athletics coach for Wales, was Shatun's father. When Shatun says going to the Olympics as an athlete is a matter of "unfinished business", he is thinking not only of self-fulfilment but the memory of his father. "It is a combination of both," he said.

After Pickering's defeat of the Russians in the indoor international in Birmingham on Saturday, the decision to give up his job last February looks much less of a gamble. Aged 34, he said, as his father would have said, "a lifetime best" of 19.10 metres. The Olympic qualifying standard is 19.50 metres.

Under the British Athletic Federation pay scale, Pickering's pay is worth £200. "Last year I earned £50," he said.

Not that he keeps his earnings from athletics. "In the five years since my father died, any money I have got from the sport has gone into the [Ron Pickering] memorial fund," Pickering said. The

fund assists athletes, young and elite. "We had 17 people in the world championships team last year who received a grant," Pickering added.

Pickering rents a home in Los Angeles, where he transferred on February 15 — "an appropriate date, the date my dad died" — and he trains at UCLA, where John Godina, the world champion, trains. "The attitude is better for shot putting," Pickering said. "Also, we [in Britain] do not have the coaches who understand the technique."

Switching from a gliding to rotational technique has been pivotal in Pickering's improvement, allowing him to utilise his speed. How many 22-stone men can claim a 100 metres best of 11.0 seconds?

Pickering can. "My power is good but my strength is not great," he said. "Athletically, I inherited it from my parents.

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## Court of Appeal

## Unreasonable to bring claim after 18 years

## Biggs v Somerset County Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell [Judgment January 26]

It was not reasonable for a part-time worker to bring a claim for compensation for unfair dismissal in June 1994 when she had been dismissed in August 1976, notwithstanding that it was not until March 1994 that the House of Lords declared the qualifying thresholds for claims by part-time workers to be incompatible with European Community law; see *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* (The Times March 4, 1994; [1995] AC 1).

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Mrs Mary Biggs from the Employment Appeal Tribunal (The Times July 17, 1995; [1995] ICR 811) which had upheld an Exeter industrial tribunal that her complaint of unfair dismissal against her employers, Somerset County Council, was out of time.

Mr James Goudie, QC, for Mrs Biggs; Mr David Pannick and Mr Paul Golding for the county council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that at the time of her dismissal, the right not to be unfairly dismissed did not apply to employment for less than 21 hours weekly.

## Barber v Staffordshire County Council

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Iain Glidewell [Judgment January 26]

There was nothing in the principles of cause of action estoppel or issue estoppel which restricted their application to a reasoned decision of an industrial tribunal; those principles applied equally when a case was dismissed formally by the tribunal following its withdrawal by an applicant.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Mrs Mary Andrea Roberts Barber against the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mr J. A. Scouller and Mr A. C. Bligh) allowing on October 30, 1995 an appeal by Staffordshire County Council from Mr J. G. Haslam at a Birmingham industrial tribunal on an interlocutory hearing.

Mr James Goudie, QC, for Mrs Barber; Mr T. Brendan Hegarty, QC and Miss Joanne Connolly for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that Mrs Barber instituted the present proceedings against the county council seeking redundancy payments and awards of compensation for unfair dismissal. The claims were based on the

termination of three contracts of part-time employment whereby Mrs Barber was formerly employed as a teacher.

The appeal was concerned with two of the contracts at Manifold School (September 1, 1984 to August 31, 1992) and St Leonard's School (September 1, 1989 to August 31, 1992).

Following her dismissal from those schools, Mrs Barber was advised by her union that her hours of work at those schools could be aggregated and she presented a complaint to an industrial tribunal claiming redundancy payment.

However, when Mrs Barber's representative became aware of the House of Lords decision in *Biggs v Somerset County Council* [1995] ICR 811, he advised her that her hours worked under separate concurrent contracts with the same employer, Mrs Barber withdrew her application.

Accordingly, the industrial tribunal dismissed her application pursuant to regulation 12(2)(c) of Schedule 1 to the Industrial Tribunals (Rules of Procedure) Regulations (SI 1985 No 16).

Following the decision by the House of Lords in *R v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission* [1995] AC 1, Mrs Barber presented

## Misdirection on reasonable excuse defence

## Regina v Berry

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes [Judgment January 22]

A man convicted of child abduction had his conviction quashed because the jury were misdirected about the effect on his defence of the construction of section 23 of the Child Abduction Act 1984 as amended by section 108 of, and

paragraph 38 in Schedule 12 to the Children Act 1989.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of Thomas Clive Berry, aged 40, of Whitehill, Hampshire, against his conviction at Winchester Crown Court (Mr Justice Tuckey and a jury) on a charge that, contrary to section 20(1) of the 1984 Act, he "without lawful authority or reasonable excuse took or detained ... a child under

the age of 16 years so as to remove the child from the lawful control of the person having lawful control of the child." The court was sentenced to 12 months.

Section 2, as amended, provides:

"(1) Subject to subsection (3) below, a person other than one mentioned in subsection (2) below commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he takes or detains a child under the age of sixteen ... (a) so as to remove him from the lawful control of any person having lawful control of the child ...

"(2) The persons are ... (b) where the father and mother of the child in question were not married to each other at the time of his birth, the mother; and (c) any other person" inter alia, a guardian and someone having control of the child.

"(3) In proceedings against any person for an offence under this section, it shall be a defence for that person to prove — (a) where the father and mother of the child in question were not married to each other at the time of his birth ... (b) that, at the time of the alleged offence, he believed on reasonable grounds, that he was the child's father...

Mr Jeremy Wright, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Michael Butt for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the defence was that the appellant honestly but mistakenly believed that he was the child's father.

In construing the difficult provisions of section 2 the significance of the phrase "the child in question" was not appreciated by any of those concerned in the trial. In the result the judge directed the jury to consider whether the defence had discharged the burden placed on the appellant by subsection (3).

In answering that question in that way, the judge, in their Lordships' judgment, had misdirected the jury.

Accordingly subsection (3) similarly did not apply in the present case. The facts raised by the appellant fell to be considered under section 20(1) for reference to the phrases "unlawful authority or reasonable excuse".

It had been common ground that the offence existed in taking or detaining a child under it and that the burden of proving that the taking or detaining without lawful authority or reasonable excuse rested on the prosecution.

His Lordship added that, having regard to the evidence, the present case would have been a case for a retrial but, since the appellant had served half of his 12-month sentence, their Lordships did not consider that a retrial should be ordered.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Eastleigh.

Mr Butt submitted that the verdict was safe. However, their Lordships had concluded that, where the fundamental directions on law were in error, as in the present case, those were the issues to be considered. The verdict could not be considered as safe. It was quashed and the appeal was allowed.

His Lordship added that, having regard to the evidence, the present case would have been a case for a retrial but, since the appellant had served half of his 12-month sentence, their Lordships did not consider that a retrial should be ordered.

Also it was common ground that, on a general principle that, if the facts as the appellant believed them to be would have afforded him lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the prosecution would have failed to prove the offence. Thus, if the appellant honestly and mistakenly believed the child was his daughter it would have been open to the jury to conclude that that constituted a

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## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Courtyard Leisure, Filtronic Comtek, Haynes Publishing, Joseph Hoyle & Son, TR Smaller Cos Inv Tst, Finlays, Bulrough, Eurocamp, Rhône-Poulenc, Rorer, SGS-Thomson, St Andrews Trust, Soundtracs, Trencherwood, USDC Inv Tst.

## TOMORROW

Interims: Adscene Group, Birkdale Group, Edinburgh Smaller Cos, Games Workshop Group, Kay's Food Group, Property Trust, Wyko Group.

Finals: Lorien Group, Northern Rock BS, Harry Ramsden's.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: Anglo United, Asia Healthcare, Beales Hunter, Bucknall Group, Cavanagh & Gray, J&J Dyson, Eurodis Electron, Hidong Estate, High Income Trust, Ilford Morris, Peel Holdings, Regent Corp, Zetters Group.

Finals: Allied Textile Com., Fytas, Povar.

Economic statistics: Minutes of the (December 13) monthly meeting between Chancellor of the Exchequer and Governor of the Bank of England, gilt auction (23 billion £), UK council of mortgage lenders survey.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Peter Black Holdings, Misys, Select Industries, TR City of London, Wholesale Fittings.

Finals: Gartmore British Income & Growth, Hotspur Investments.

Economic statistics: Purchasing managers' survey (January), balance of visible trade (November).

## FRIDAY

Finals: Malvern UK Index, Mithras Inv Tst, Motor World Group.

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Allied Textiles, BET, Bemrose, Sell United Biscuits, Hold Standard Chartered. The Sunday Telegraph Buy RIB, Chiroscience, Aromascan, The Mail on Sunday Buy Bensons Crisps, Westmount Energy, Caledonian Media Group. Sell Firecrest.

## COMPANIES

## PHILIP PANGALOS

## Hanson steps into the limelight

LORD HANSON will take centre stage on Wednesday when he chairs the annual meeting of his Anglo-American industrial conglomerate, becoming the focus of attention in an otherwise quiet week for companies reporting.

Hanson will be watched for any comments it makes on the health of the economy on both sides of the Atlantic. The group's interests span batteries to building materials in Britain, while its American operations include Quantum, its US chemicals arm, where recovery prospects for polyethylene prices look brighter after recent rises by Dow Chemical.

Analysts also await news on progress at Eastern Electricity, the electricity distribution company acquired for £2.5 billion last year, and Hanson's business disposal programme as it attempts to cut debts and reduce gearing.

Further disposals are awaited after Hanson said last month that it planned to raise £1.5 billion in the US by selling Cavenham Forest Industries and floating off a majority stake in Suburban Propane.

Attention will focus on current trading and prospects as the group's diverse span of textile activities will provide a good indication of how the sector is faring.

Jeanne Blake, of BZW, expects final pre-tax profits to climb to £18.6 million, against £17 million last time. A dividend of 7.2p (6.75p) is predicted.

## GAMES WORKSHOP

The fantasy wargames specialist will unveil timely interim results tomorrow in a week when the Toy Fair starts at London's Olympia.

The company, which has more than 85 retail outlets, mostly in the UK, but also in France, Spain, North America and Australia, should escape the competitive conditions that have hit other retailers.

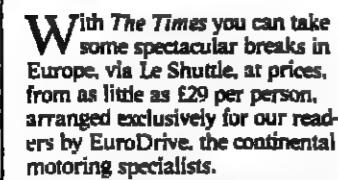
The key reason behind consistent sales growth is that demand for the type of products sold by Games Workshop tends to come from those who have a hobby in this field. Furthermore, with no direct competitors and a vertically integrated operation in most of its territories, Games Workshop has more control over pricing, volumes and costs.

Merrill Lynch recently successfully placed nearly 10 per cent of the company at 267p, compared with a present level of more than £3. The shares have been buoyed by speculative interest in the wake of Manet's \$5.2 billion

interim pre-tax profits are expected to advance to £22.6 million, compared with £11.2 million last time, according to Paul Morland, of NatWest Securities.

COLLECT THREE TOKENS AND ENJOY SHORT BREAKS IN EUROPE WITH THE TIMES

## European breaks from just £29



With *The Times* you can take some spectacular breaks in Europe, via Le Shuttle, at prices from as little as £29 per person, arranged exclusively for our readers by EuroDrive, the continental motoring specialists.

Our money-saving packages, available between February 1 and March 31, 1996, offer 175 hotels in 12 European countries all carefully selected by EuroDrive. For example, you and three friends could nip across the Channel to Amiens, a leisurely drive from Calais, to see the magnificent gothic cathedral, Les Hortillonnages - a maze of floating market gardens, the archaeological park of Samara or the Marquenterre nature reserve and stay in three-star comfort for only £29 per person.

Today and tomorrow we will feature 130 hotels in France including 40 hotels in the Paris area. A list of other major cities in Europe appeared on Saturday.

The comprehensive key with our European hotel listing gives you the per person prices which include the cost of the return chan-

nel crossing and one night's accommodation. The first price listed is the per person cost based on a car and four people travelling together; the second the per person price for a car and two people, and the third price is the cost per person for an extra night's stay.

In many hotels you will get the sort of luxury to which it is so easy to become accustomed. In others you get the basics allowing you to save your money for spending on other things. It's up to you.

And for readers who prefer to fly, we have negotiated special flight offers through Hamilton Travel with a guarantee that, if you find the identical flight for less within 24 hours of purchase, they will match the lower fare or give you a full refund. A list of flight destinations and fares appears below.

To take advantage of this offer collect three different tokens from *The Times* this week. Full details of how to book your short breaks and/or the flight option, if required, will appear later this week with a booking form.

Destination	Lowest Published Fare	Hamilton Travel Fares From
Amsterdam	£128	£66
Brussels	£69	£66
Budapest	£299	£154
Copenhagen	£160	£129
Frankfurt	£212	£105
Geneva	£261	£149
Lisbon	£114	£94
Lyons	£204	£173
Milan	£208	£138
Munich	£272	£108
Nice	£202	£133
Paris	£69	£57
Prague	£330	£143
Rome	£239	£110
Vienna	£275	£142
Zurich	£261	£117

**Terms and Conditions**  
1. Fares shown are per person and compared with published fares correct at the time of going to press, are subject to availability at the time of booking and are exclusive of airport taxes.  
2. Reservations and enquiries should be made directly with Hamilton Travel Ltd. Details will appear next week.  
3. Full payment is required immediately on confirming your reservation. Only when payment is received will the ticket be issued and the fare guaranteed.  
4. Amendments to confirmed reservations are subject to airline rules and regulations applicable to the fare type booked. Please ask for further details before confirming your reservation.  
5. Cancellation charges are as follows: before ticket issue - £20 per passenger; after ticket issued - No refund.  
6. Bookings can be made payable to Hamilton Travel Ltd. You may also pay by major credit and debit cards. Credit card transactions are subject to a 1.5% booking fee.  
7. Passport/Visa requirements, for destinations listed are available on request.  
8. Hamilton Travel Ltd. Atol 4892.

## FRANCE

## ABBEVILLE

Ibis 2\* Just outside centre, on the road to Amiens. Rest. RO £29 £39 £15.

AMBIENS

Novotel 3\* Ideal location for visiting Gothic cathedral, and floating market gardens.

RO £25 £39 £20 £28

Grand Hôtel du Univers 3\* Traditional.

Individually furnished bedrooms.

RO £49 £59 £32

## Chartreuse du Val St Esprit, a former monastery in Gosney

Ibis 2\* Good position for sightseeing.

RO £29 £49 £18

## ARRAS

Ibis 2\* Short walk from Town Hall and Belfry, modern, but blends with local architecture of

magnificent squares and tall, gabled houses.

RO £29 £39 £15 EBC.

Hotel des Trois Luppars 2\* Charming hotel,

dating back to 13th century. RO £29 £39 £20.

## BAVEY

Novotel 3\* Five-minute walk from centre,

landscaped gardens, rest. bar, parking.

RO £29 £39 £20

Campanile 2\* Motel-style, grill-

rest, husband and wife team.

RO £29 £39 £20 Mon-Thur supplement £5pp.

## DEAUVILLE

Ibis 2\* Marine, close casino, beach, race-

course, rest. bar, garage.

RO £29 £39 £20

Campanile 2\* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-

rest, husband and wife team.

RO £29 £39 £20 EBC

## DUNKERQUE

Ibis 2\* Outskirts, near Auchan supermarket,

rest. bar.

RO £29 £39 £15 EBC.

## EPERNAY

Campanile 2\* North, motel-style grill-

rest, husband and wife team.

RO £29 £39 £20 EBC

## BOULOGNE

Hotel Fairtherive 2\* Family-run, on one of

main shopping streets.

RO £29 £39 £15 EBC

## CAEN

Ibis Centre 2\* Facing St Pierre cathedral,

bar, rest. piano bar, car park.

RO £29 £39 £20

Le Brigitte 4\* Luxurious, elegant gastro-

nic restaurant, indoor pool, sauna.

RO £59 £69 £40

## GIVERNY

Ibis Centre 2\* Tan-minutes' drive from

Caen. Outskirts car ferry terminal.

RO £29 £39 £15

## LE MONT SAINT MICHEL

Novotel 3\* North of town, rest. bar, car park.

RO £29 £39 £15

## LILLE

Novotel Centre 3\* Near Palais des

Expositions, ten-minute taxi ride from airport.

RO £39 £49 £26

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 3\* Central, New

Orleans rest. Cajun specialities.

RO £49 £59 £38

Novotel 3\* Park, 8 km southeast

of Lille, rest. bar, car park.

RO £29 £39 £20

## MAULDEZIEGE

Campanile 2\* Outskirts, motel-style, grill-

rest, husband and wife team.

RO £29 £39 £20 EBC

## MEAUX

Novotel 3\* Park, 8 km southeast

of Meaux, rest. bar, car park.

RO £29 £39 £20

## MONTREUIL

Interhotel La Peupleraie 2\* Basic, tradi-

tional, two-star. RO £29 £39 £15

## NICE

Novotel Centre 3\* Near Palais des

Expositions, ten-minute taxi ride from airport.

RO £39 £49 £26

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 3\* Central, New

Orleans rest. Cajun specialities.

RO £49 £59 £38

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Novotel Centre 3\* Near Palais des

Expositions, ten-minute taxi ride from airport.

# CBI finds small firm orders at a standstill

By MARTIN BARROW

SMALL and medium enterprises reported a virtual standstill in total orders over the past four months and say growth in overall demand is approaching a three-year low. Other key findings of a survey by the Confederation of British Industry include export orders rising more slowly than any time over the past three years and investment intentions in plant and machinery remaining at their least positive since January 1993.

The latest Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) trends survey of 569 manufacturing companies, each employing fewer than 500 people, does however suggest demand and output will grow more quickly over the next four months, though expectations in earlier surveys have not been realised since the middle of last year. Business optimism fell for the second consecutive survey. Last October's fall was the first since October 1992.

The downward trend in demand and orders is likely to be echoed in the January report from purchasing managers, due on Thursday, January's first available snapshot.

## Listing plan by Data Sciences

Data Sciences, the information technology group that was formerly part of Thorn EMI, is planning a flotation that should value it at at least £75 million. The flotation, due within the next three months, should raise about £40 million to repay borrowings and preference shares. Company turnover grew 18 per cent to £105.7 million in the year to September 30. Operating profits were up 80 per cent at £6.1 million.

### Rescue cost

The cost of using public funds to bail out Japan's failed housing loan companies will be 10,000 yen (62.50) for each man, woman and child in the country, according to critics of Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, who plans to use Y1 billion of public money.

### Export plea

Ernesto Zedillo, the President of Mexico, will today tell the CBI in London that his country offers good opportunities for trade in spite of a fall in exports to Mexico from £323 million to £225 million in the first ten months of 1995.



Outside, it is freezing, but, indoors, thoughts turn to summer as staff of Boots Contract Manufacturing begin work on the production of one million litres of sun cream at its factory at Airdrie, near Glasgow. Last year's sweltering summer helped to lift sales of sun creams by 16 per cent at Boots The Chemist, in spite of aggressive price competition

## Dispute brewing over KPMG pay

By ROBERT BRUCE

KPMG is to become the first large accountancy firm to publish an annual report and accounts, a move that is likely to provoke controversy over what will be seen as the big sums that its partners pay themselves.

The figures in the report are due to be released tomorrow afternoon and will show results for the whole partnership, average earnings for partners and earnings details of the partners who are the equivalent of board members.

The trigger for controversy is the likely revelation that KPMG's 600 partners pay themselves a total of more than £100 million. That accounts for a substantial slice of the partnership's total revenue last year of £400 million.

Observers estimate that junior partners in London earn between £125,000 and £150,000, while those with eight to ten years' partnership earn £250,000 to £300,000. KPMG differs from other partnerships in that it also has a general

partnership at its heart, consisting of 20 partners who are the equivalent of a board. These partners are thought to earn about £500,000.

The senior partner, Colin Sharman, is assumed to earn between £750,000 and £1 million. In an interview when KPMG announced it would disclose its figures, he said: "I have no doubt it will be of significant interest to the tabloids."

The size of payments will take on greater significance because they will be used to estimate earnings in other partnerships. The Big Six accountancy partnerships have about 1,400 partners between them in London alone.

KPMG is moving towards greater disclosure as a *quid pro quo* for incorporating its audit business to curb the risk of partnership-threatening litigation. It also sees the move as commercially attractive in promoting its openness. Of the other accountancy firms, only Ernst & Young has said it will produce full figures this year.

## Fewer homes repossessed

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

FEWER homes are being repossessed by banks and building societies, and the number of homeowners struggling with mortgage arrears has dropped, according to figures to be published this week.

The figures, which will be published by the Council of Mortgage Lenders on Wednesday, will also add to growing confidence among lenders, economists and the Government that the housing market may pick up this year on the back of tax and interest rate cuts.

An upturn in the housing market is seen as a key ingredient of the "feel-good" factor.

Repossessions increased for the first time in four years in the first half of 1995 as house prices dropped and lenders ran out of patience with indebted borrowers.

Mortgage chiefs expected the situation to worsen because of October's cut in income support for home-

### GILT-EDGED

## Why politics has yet to put risk premium into prices

ECONOMIC factors have pushed the gilt market higher in the early weeks of 1996. Investors have gained confidence that inflation pressures will remain subdued, and the prospects for base rate cuts have improved.

With yields as low as 7.3 per cent to 7.4 per cent at ten-year maturities, though, any further potential buyers of the market for the medium term or the long term must weigh carefully the likely returns against the market risks attached to the election.

In particular, the following questions must be addressed:

- To what extent has the gilt market already discounted a Labour victory?
- How much more risk will be built in ahead of the election?
- Will there be good buying opportunities around election time?

The economic outlook is

not the only reason to be confident about gilts in 1997 and beyond, even in the event of a Labour election victory. The current policy framework of monthly meetings between the

Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor, and the quarterly publication of the Bank's inflation report, open monetary policy to a much greater level of scrutiny than used to be the case.

Therefore, for example, any rate cuts that might be

interpreted as politically motivated now require a much more vigorous (and, one hopes, rigorous) defence from the government of the day. We have lately seen how the current Chancellor has had to defend quarter-point rate cuts against suggestions of political motivation, even at a time of weak inflation and international rate cuts.

Overall, therefore, the outlook for gilts in the very long term is favourable. However, the uncertainties created by the election and a likely change of government have ample scope to unsettle the market in 1996: returns this year are unlikely to be as high as current cash interest rates.

STEPHEN SCOTT  
Kleinwort Benson

## Shortlist chosen for PLC Awards

### Coopers & Lybrand PLC AWARDS

THE voting panel for the 1995 Coopers & Lybrand PLC Awards, which are held in association with *The Times*, has drawn up a shortlist of companies vying for honours (Martin Barrow writes).

The judges will now conduct a more detailed inquiry into the companies that are

shortlisted before inviting members of the public to cast their votes on a final selection next month.

The PLC Awards, now celebrating their tenth year, will be presented at a ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane on March 14. The winners will be selected in the categories of

company of the year, new company of the year, entrepreneur of the year and best annual report.

There will also be a special individual prize, the PLC Achievement Award, in recognition of a City professional who has made an outstanding contribution to companies listed on the stock market.

## Good week for pharmaceutical groups

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies had one of its busiest weeks so far.

David Abrahams, a dealer at Winterflood Securities, said there were further strong gains in heavy trading for Stanford Rock Holdings, the pharmaceutical group recently boosted by a reiterated buy-out from Nomura, the Japanese securities house.

The group received a further boost after a buy recommendation from Yamaichi, with talk that the Japanese securities group is suggesting that a price of £8 a share is not too adventurous in the medium

term. Polymers, the biopharmaceutical company that licenses products and processes to the pharmaceutical and medical diagnostics industry, also had a good week after a stock overhang was eventually cleared.

SkyPharma, Ian Gowrie-Smith's latest venture, had a good run as its rights issue was a 94 per cent take-up.

Jasmine, the electronic systems designer, rose after accompanying increased interim profits with news of a record order book and a £5 million contract for passenger information systems for Tube trains on the Northern Line.

Tricorder, the leisure complex, raised £29.4 million through a placing and open offer. The proceeds were used to fund the acquisition of the rights to Enid Blyton's literary material, which includes Noddy, for £14.2 million and to install a 3D Imax cinema at its complex in Piccadilly.

Firecrest, which recently landed internet deals with DigitalOne and Energis, launched its Global Online Directory, an index that offers users of the Internet global

computer network improved access and search facilities.

Chartwell International, the merchanting group that trades in the former Soviet Union, benefited on news that it had added a mineral division to its subsidiaries.

The number of companies traded on AIM has grown to 125, compared with just ten when the market started on June 19. Capitalisation increased to £2.45 billion.

Self Sealing Systems, which owns patents on processes that seal balloons without tying a knot, should see a small premium when it starts trading today through a placing at 54p a share, capitalising it at £3.15 million.

### TOURIST RATES

Bank Buy Bank Sale

	Bank Buy	Bank Sale
Australia \$	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	16.73	15.29
Belgium Fr	40.15	39.85
Canada \$	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp	0.762	0.699
Denmark Kr	8.50	8.50
Finland Mkr	7.47	6.82
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany DM	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	382.00	387.00
Hong Kong \$	12.22	11.29
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Ireland Sbk	5.1500	4.9800
Italy Lire	252.00	257.00
Japan Yen	174.90	150.90
Malta	0.588	0.534
Netherlands Gld	2.686	2.438
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	244.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	inf.	5.25
Spain Pes	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.12	10.32
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	880.05	0
USA \$	1.604	1.474

### CHANGE ON WEEK

#### THE POUND

US dollar  
1.5028 (-0.0077)  
German mark  
2.2414 (+0.0063)  
Exchange index  
83.1 (+0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share  
2766.3 (+4.2)  
FT-SE 100  
3734.7 (-13.7)  
New York Dow Jones  
5271.75 (+87.07)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge  
20663.84 (+298.06)

**WORD-WATCHING**  
Answers from page 31

**BAILIFFACHE**  
(a) Thomas à Becket. When Thomas was on his way, rising star, to become a clerk to the Archbishop, (1143), he was carrying Givith, the woodman's hatchet, as an act of humility, to prefer he was a simple working boy rather than an ambitious intellectual. The other clerks saw through him, and jealously nicknamed him *halibache*, in *cheaper-quarter*.

**PIGSNEY**  
(a) Believe it or not, this is an ancient term of endearment to be used when addressing a girl. Etymology from the Saxon word for a pig. Try it out on your latest infantata. She may well be charmed and delighted. Or not, depending on her girth. "Come to my arms, my delicious little piggy..."

**THAUMATURGE**  
(a) A wonder-worker. Superman, magician or other con-man. From the Greek for "wonder-worker". This was a term applied by the Roman Catholic Church to its dossier saints (though all are dodgy, such as Gregory, Bishop of Neos-Caesarea, and St Bernard, who was spied grandi as Thaumaturgus as the West World, to frighten the collection out of old ladies of both sexes. Hence the term came to describe any conjurer or television beginner of the simple and gullible.

**INTESTATE**  
(a) The state, condition or fecklessness of not having made a will. "Have you heard about poor James's intestacy? I suppose he won't be able to have children now."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1 Rfd1 gxf (1... Rxf2 Qxf5, and the rook at a8 goes): 2 Qg5+ Kf7 3 Qg7# Kxf6 4 Qxf7# Kxf5 5 g4# winning the black queen.

Politics  
It's to put  
Premium  
Prices

THE  
TIMES



CITY  
DIARY

### McNally makes a clean sweep

THE head of Compaq Computers in the UK, which this week announced record sales of £646 million, let slip that he once worked as a road sweeper on Tyneside. Joe McNally, 49, a Compaq vice-president, wielded a broom for a year after being sacked by his father from Miles Druce, the family steel firm in Gateshead. "I really enjoyed sweeping the streets, it was character-building. You were your own boss in a peculiar sort of way, but I think doing that made me more determined to succeed," he said.

"Dad sacked me after a row. We didn't really get on that well at work. I was in telephone sales and he was under pressure to make sure I was successful because people thought the only reason I was there was because I was the boss's son. When he sacked me, the only job I could get was sweeping," McNally junior eventually landed a job as a computer programmer and after a successful career with Honeywell he was headhunted in 1984 by Compaq the American company for its launch into the British market.

### Invest-a-fon

IF Northern Ireland's success in attracting investment suddenly slips, blame BT. Would-be investors trying to ring Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board and relying on BT's new Ulster telephone directory - 70,000 copies have just been distributed at a cost of £1.5 million - find themselves talking to a Belfast taxi firm. However, Fon-a-Cab is not letting the Province down. "We've a highly skilled and motivated workforce. West Belfast - no problem. Americans are always very welcome," the cab firm told a genuinely Canadian-accented *Belfast Telegraph* reporter who rang, posing as a New York businesswoman.

### Golden words

STRETCH limousines and tight security will be the order of the day in Whitehall on February 9. George Bush, the former US President, and Brian Mulroney, the former Canadian Prime Minister, are coming to town. Bush, honorary senior adviser to the international advisory board of Barrick, the North American goldmining group, is speaker at a Barrick luncheon. It will be the first time the board has met in London.

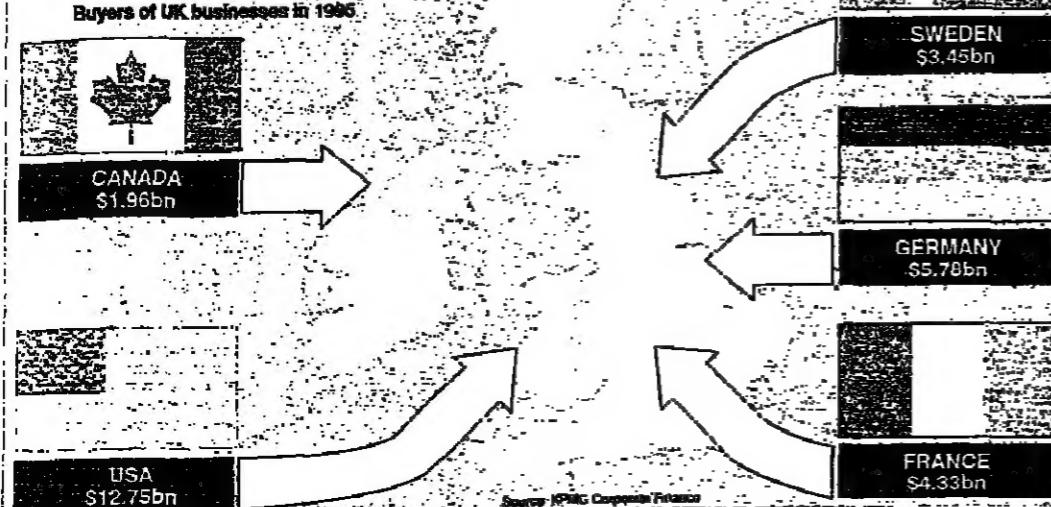
### Chairman licked

RETIRING chairmen usually recount only flattering remarks when looking back. Not Jim Shippard, who, after 35 years, is leaving Shippard, the family pasta, spreads and Mexican food company based in Chichester, founded 210 years ago and now part of GrandMet. His most measured customer complaint, levelled against a tongue spread, is: "Your product has done nothing for the state of my tongue and has clogged up my toothbrush". Oh well, you can't please them all.

COLIN CAMPBELL

### WHO'S BUYING BRITAIN?

Buyers of UK businesses in 1995



## Societies guard against pre-float bids

BY PATRICIA TEAHAN  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester Building Societies are putting defensive strategies in place to guard against hostile takeovers before they are able to convert to bank status.

The Woolwich has already announced plans to seek a £3 billion stock market listing and Alliance & Leicester is widely expected next month to unveil plans for a £2.5 billion flotation. However, analysts say that by

announcing such plans, the societies are effectively putting themselves into play for a hostile bidder until their flotation are completed.

An adviser to one of them said the societies both knew who the likely predators were and had "built up ammunition against them". After flotation, the two will be legally protected from predators by rules that prevent any single shareholder from building up a stake of more than 15 per cent.

Speaking after the Woolwich announced its plans, Peter Robinson, its

chief executive, said: "I accept that the period between announcement and flotation will stimulate interest in the Woolwich from companies that wish to establish partnership or wish to absorb us into their business along the lines of the Cheltenham & Gloucester/Lloyds Bank template."

Mr Robinson added, however, that the society wished to remain independent and had no need to transfer control of its customers, staff or 150-year-old franchise to a third party.

Neither society could easily use US-style "poison pill" tactics, because to frustrate a bidder offering value to members would, according to one observer, be seen as too risky "for legal, cosmetic and practical reasons".

However, he added that a more sensible approach was to present a convincing case that the society was following a credible strategy and that the conversion to bank status and flotation was the best way of delivering value to members in the short term and to shareholders in the longer term.

£100m deal to control several well-known publishing names

## Virgin lines up Reed books

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE Virgin Group expects to sign a deal to buy Reed Consumer Books from Reed-Elsevier, its Anglo-Dutch parent, for about £100 million within the next fortnight, a source close to the deal said yesterday.

It will give Virgin control of Hamlyn, Heinemann, Methuen and Secker & Warburg, publishing rights to children's favourites such as *Winnie the Pooh* and *Thomas the Tank Engine*, and a roster of best-selling authors including Peter Ackroyd, William Boyd, Roderick Doyle and David Lodge.

Virgin, which will fund the entire purchase itself, has beaten off bids by venture capital groups believed to include Apax and Electra. The source denied reports that Virgin was now looking for venture capital backers, saying the agreed price "is well within its own financial resources". Apax is Virgin's partner in Virgin Radio and Electra helped it with the failed bid for Channel 5.

Frank Pearl and Raymond Chambers, the American businessmen now backing the Duchess of York, are also understood to have shown an interest in the Reed unit. Reports that Carlton Communications was making a bid were denied last week by the company.

CSFB, Virgin's adviser, which also helped on the



Thomas the Tank Engine, a popular children's character, likely to join Virgin's stable

purchase of the MGM cinema chain, is now carrying out due diligence and, all being well, a deal should be signed in mid-February. CSFB was unavailable for comment over the weekend.

Goldman Sachs, which is acting on Reed-Elsevier's be-

half, received four or five bids last Tuesday. The Virgin bid, led by Robert Devereux, brother-in-law of Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, and head of its entertainment business, was preferred because of price and ability to close the deal quickly.

Reed Consumer Books was put up for auction last sum-

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Reed-Elsevier raised £740 million with the sale of five newspaper and magazine publishing subsidiaries in November. Consumer Books is the last unit it wants to sell.

Virgin expanded its music book publishing arm, set up in 1980, when it bought W H Allen, the troubled publisher, in 1989. Virgin Books made a profit of about £1.5 million last year on sales of £15 million. It now has a growing biography and sports list.



Devereux leading bid

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A survey of RICS members showed a net balance of 17 per cent more confident about the high street this year with confidence of 50 per cent in Central London.

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Many Labour Party policies are still way left of the New Labour image. Tony Blair is trying to portray to middle-class voters. No wonder he wants to keep his options open until the last minute. In one area, however, Labour cannot wait. Railtrack is due to be floated on the stock market in May and British (nuclear) Energy later this year. Labour is dead against both. It has yet to spell out its intentions.

Even after a bad week for Labour, the City expects Mr Blair to win an election within 15 months. Billions of taxpayers' money is at stake. If Labour sticks to dire but vague warnings, it will not stop the sales, but it will depress the price ordinary people would pay, far more severely than it did for water or electricity. City speculators, who can spot an empty threat at 50 yards, will pocket the "Labour discount". Labour should therefore give up the luxury of opposition for the responsibilities of a government in waiting. For taxpayers' sake, and its own, it must put up or shut up.

With that responsibility also goes power. On its present poll ratings, Labour could stop either sale if it really tried. The questions are how it would be done and whether Mr

## Short steams up to shunt Railtrack into the sidings

Blair's inner circle really want to. They will surely be answered soon. Labour knows it cannot afford to be seen as the speculator's naive friend.

When the Government announced the nuclear privatisation, the Shadow spokesman said Labour would stop it. His successors have not. Instead, they have been looking quietly at the state guarantees and insurance that prop up the industry's viability. Proposals can be kicked away. But should they be? Over the past year, the structure of the power industry has changed so much that keeping a single, constrained, competitor in the public sector begins to look as crazy as private nuclear did.

Railtrack is more urgent. Labour's policy stance looks clear: commitment to a publicly owned, publicly accountable rail network. Yet over the weekend, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, had no trouble embarrassing Clare Short, his new Shadow, over



Labour's apparent ambiguity. In reality, Gordon Brown has made clear that Labour would not spend missing billions to renationalise Railtrack (or anything else) if it were floated successfully. Labour is not into confiscation, so a threat to renationalise would, in any case, underwrite a sale structured to give big discounts to the public.

Threats of changes in structure

and regulation to restore state control would sound punitive and anti-capitalist, something Mr Blair is anxious to avoid. They would necessarily also lack detail, increasing uncertainty in an industry already plagued by it. Labour does not want to undo the separation of train leasing or maintenance, and intends to let pre-existing franchises run their lengthy course.

The practical choice is therefore simple. Labour must abandon its policy in all but rhetoric, perhaps merely including Railtrack in its utility levy. Or it must stop the sale. Clare Short is banking on the latter.

There is a financial and commercial case for keeping Railtrack in the public sector. Its profits and dividends will come wholly from taxpayer subsidies. If it is sold, annual public spending on rail will therefore rise steeply, at least until the long contracts run out and private-sector efficiency makes up the difference.

Railtrack also offers an adjustment mechanism to help the complex new system bed down. That is why Roger Freeman, architect of rail reform before he joined the Cabinet, did not plan to sell Railtrack before the end of the process.

To stop the flotation cleanly, Clare Short would need to promise a simple, clear measure that would not upset the new rail system, but would forearm potential investors that Railtrack shares would be worthless if Mr Blair is elected. For instance, it could legitimately levy all Railtrack's post-interest profits every year to defray subsidies from taxpayers. Railtrack shares are nothing without some prospect of dividends. Anything less clear-cut could merely depress the flotation price. In theory, Sir George could still give the shares away to employees or lenders, but Labour could then afford to buy them back.

Tony Blair could reassure the City, and help taxpayers more, if he combined a stop signal for Railtrack with a go signal for British Energy, cutting out the political risk there. All that depends, however, on Labour's electoral credibility. If its poll ratings fall sharply between now and April, it might as well kiss its rail commitment goodbye.

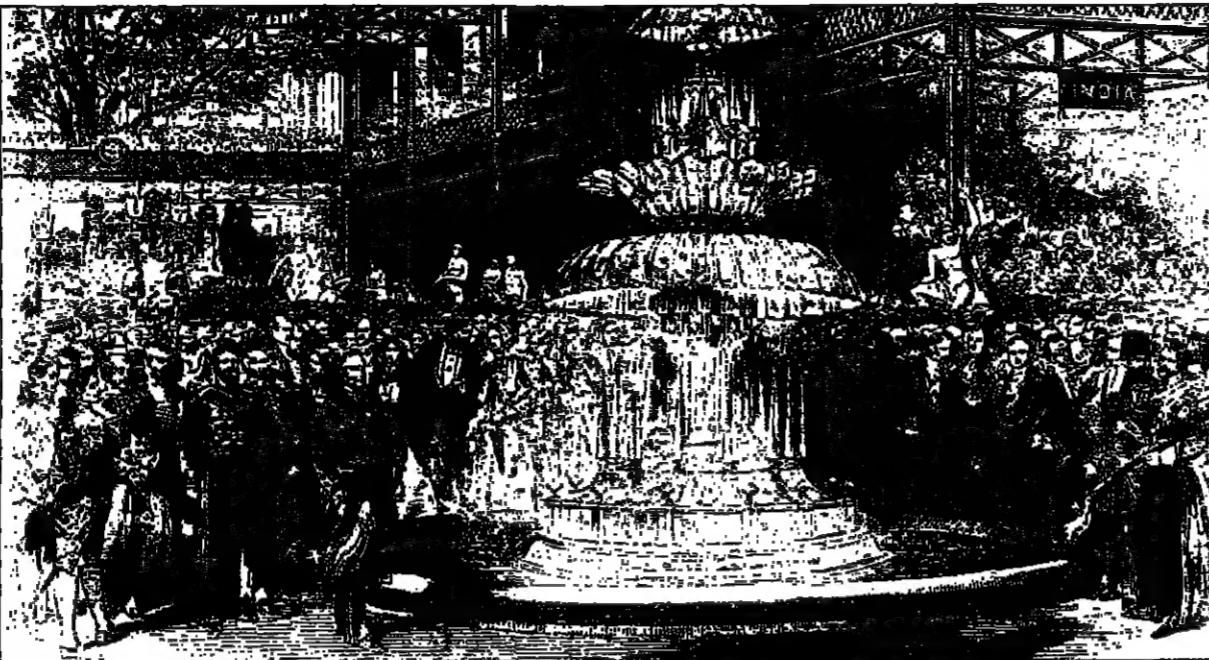
## Stakeholder economy at work

**Tony Blair's concept is hardly new to business, says Philip Bassett**

When Tony Blair, the Labour leader, announced his aim of a "stakeholder economy", most political circles seemed confounded by what was announced as Labour's new Big Idea. But for many business leaders, stakeholderism is a familiar concept—even if they are uneasy about it being abominated by politics.

Today will see a move to wrest it back for business when many of the UK's premier business leaders gather to examine the progress of stakeholding in Britain's economy at the level of the firm.

Since Mr Blair's Far East trip, stakeholding has been traced back to many progenitors. Some, such as the work of Professor John Kay, at the London Business School, and Will Hutton's book, *The State*



The Great Exhibition of 1851 shows the Royal Society of Arts has been at the forefront of business activity

*We're In*, were genuine. Others leap on to the bandwagon.

Today's Royal Society of Arts gathering has as much and probably a great deal more claim than most to at least popularising in business circles the notion of placing importance on stakeholders as part of a so-

called "inclusive" approach to running a company.

In 1993, the RSA supported by key British companies, including NatWest, Thorn EMI, IBM, UK, National Grid, Kleinwort Benson, Blue Circle, John Lewis, Unilever, Cadbury Schweppes, Guin-

ness and WH Smith, set up an inquiry into Tomorrow's Company: what kind of companies Britain needed to operate successfully in a world of rapidly-increasing global competition. While some might have been surprised at the RSA's involvement, the society's full

title—the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce—indicates its pedigree in the field, as does its background. Founded in 1754, among its projects was the Great Exhibition of 1851— a showcase for Victorian industrial prowess and a model for the Millennium Commission.

The Tomorrow's Company report, published last summer, proposed the model of the inclusive company, which it saw as one being clear about its purpose and values, one able to measure its success—and one which "values reciprocal relationships and works actively to build them with customers, suppliers and other key stakeholders through a partnership approach".

"Inclusive", "values", "reciprocal", "partnership" and "stakeholders" are all key words in the new Labour lexicon. But the RSA inquiry enjoys cross-party support. Whatever the political argument, many leading British firms already consider themselves to be stakeholder companies—BT, NatWest, M&S, and BP among them. They do not consider it a soft option, or warm words.

Stuart Hampshire, chairman of the John Lewis Partnership— perhaps the ultimate UK example of a stakeholder company, with employees as partners owning most of the Waitrose, Peter Jones and John Lewis firm—will address the conference today, and he is clear on the toughness of the inclusive approach, insisting it is "not about soft options and ducking confrontation, but about the challenge of moulding together strong, efficient businesses with a shared focus on constant gains in competitive performance".

Mr Blair's elevation of the stakeholder idea to a governing principle of Labour's approach to social organisation, based on inclusion and social cohesion rather than what it charges has been the excitement and social division of the Conservative years, raises the political stakes around the idea. So sensitive is it that when Adair Turner, the CBI's Director-General, mentioned it jokingly in his speech last week on pay it was seized on as evidence of a new-business endorsement for new Labour.

Such sensitivity may make today's conference speech by Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, an examination of competitiveness and tomorrow's company at once robust, in any political rejection of Mr Blair's stakeholderism, and careful in its endorsement of

the RSA's emphasis on the importance to British industry and the economy of improving the UK's competitiveness.

Many may have been taken by surprise by the concept of stakeholding, but members of the RSA inquiry were acutely aware of its sensitivities when they drew up their report. Some did not want to use the word at all, seeing it as the very least capable of being viewed as a return to the corporate state approach of the 1970s.

Others were sceptical from a different viewpoint, stressing that in America many companies have rejected the stakeholder concept because poorly performing firms were using it as a reason for why their performance was so poor.

Mark Goyder, of the RSA and director of the Tomorrow's Company inquiry, says that the broader idea of an inclusive company "will survive. It's robust—a powerful and abiding concept".

Business leaders who support stakeholding are pleased by the notion now has a wider currency because of Mr Blair, but are anxious that it should neither disappear once it has enjoyed its 15 minutes of political fame, nor be misinterpreted by the wranglers of politics, where business recognises that for the first time since 1979, some party other than the Conservatives may win.

Members of the inquiry team feel that this is a step forward." Mr Goyder says. "The substance was already there, but a new label makes people aware of that substance. But there is a concern: it would be a pity if this becomes part of an adversarial battle."

For managers such as John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, the importance of partnership, stakeholding and inclusiveness is much more important than short-term political advantage. Mr Neill will stress Britain's competitiveness gap, and put forward the remedies he has put into place at Unipart to bridge it.

"We know that we can no longer compete on effort. In the global market economy, effort can be purchased at between a tenth and a hundredth of what it costs in the UK and therefore, we

need to inspire learning throughout our demand chain and engage the creativity and talent of all the participants in the pursuit of ever-reducing costs and ever-improving customer satisfaction."

Some business leaders, however, remain opposed to inclusiveness and stakeholderism. Stressing what they see as the legal responsibilities of directors to maximise value for shareholders—a view that will be challenged today by different legal opinion—they believe that the model for company success is much more likely to be the commercially competitive Hanson than the consensual John Lewis.

The inclusivists, the pro-stakeholders, accept that the Hanson model can and is successful. But they believe that the route for more companies is the one they favour. They both welcome the focus on their notions given by the political debate, and see it as both central to Britain's economic future—and a future which the UK's companies want.

"If you had said to us three years ago that the language that we use in the inquiry would become common currency in the public debate about the economy, we would have been pleased—but surprised," Mr Goyder says. "But there is a real sense of practical need here—and that's what's important."

## An odd sprig of parsley

**No Job Too Small. Radio 4, 12.25pm.**

Stuart Macdonald's and his regular team's investigations into life's little oddities start on the thin ice of triviality. Sometimes, we can hear it cracking under their weight. In today's selection of minutiae, there is a fragile item about the life of Riley, and the inquiry into the superstitions of Hull trawlermen is little more than a fiddler. So what is there left that is worthwhile? Well, there is parsley. Macdonald impishly likens it to lawn clippings with delusions of grandeur. Dirk from Amsterdam thinks it has "a nice sculpture". The herb elicits a splendid mixed metaphor from one woman who rejects another woman's rhapsodic defence of it. "When it comes to parsley," she declares "she over-eggs the pudding."

**The Music Machine. Radio 3, 5.00pm.**

Sarah Walker's odyssey is taking her through areas of America that promise to yield good musical "copy". I have not heard any of her five reports from New Orleans, starting tonight, but she has an excellent track record as a radio journalist, so the auguries are good. I presume that one of her tasks will be to establish whether that old cliché about New Orleans having a musician in every bar has any substance, and whether there really are children dancing at every street corner. I look forward, in particular to Wednesday's instalment when she travels up the Mississippi in New Orleans's last remaining steamboat.

**RADIO 1**

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Wamo 6.30

Chris Evans 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00

Lisa Fisher 2.00 Nick Campbell 4.00

Mark Goodier 7.00 Evening Session

9.00 in Concert 10.00 Mark Radcliffe

Midnight Wendy Loyd

**RADIO 2**

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy

7.30 Wake Up to Weather 9.00 Ken Bruce

11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie

Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John

Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Dance

Band Days and 8.00 Big Band Era

8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Hayley

McLaine 9.00 10.00 Hayley Blue

(44) 10.30 The Jamesons

12.00am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Steve

McKenna 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester

**RADIO 3**

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45

Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast

Programme 6.55, 7.55 racing preview

8.35 The Magazine, incl 10.35

Europeana 11.30 News: Going Bananas

12.00 News: The Weather 12.30 News

1.00 News: Entertainment 1.15 News

2.00 News: 2.05 Outlook 2.30 News: The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 11.15 All Night

3.00 News: 4.15 The World Today 4.30 Current Affairs

5.00 News: 6.00 German 6.30 Europe Today

6.00 News: 6.45 Sport 6.55 Weather

7.00 News: 7.15 Outlook 7.25

8.00 News: 8.00 Weather 8.05 Business

9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Current Affairs

10.00 News: 10.45 Sport 11.00 Breakfast

11.15 Five 11.15 Ed Stewart 11.45

Development 9.00 Midnight Newscast

12.30am Folk Routes 12.45 Britain

Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press 1.15 Mani

Midnight and Morning 1.30 News

2.00 News 2.30 Screenplay 2.30 John Peel 4.00

Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

**WORLD SERVICE**

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newscast 5.30

Europe Today 6.00 Newscast 6.30

7.00 The Archdruid 7.30 Show 8.00

9.00 Weather 9.30 Earth 9.15 The

Greenfield Collection 9.30 News in

Germany 9.45 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport

10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English

10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk

11.30 Current Affairs 11.45 Weather

12.00 BBC Persian 12.15 British Today

12.30am The World Today 12.45 The

West 1.00 German 1.15 France Today

1.30am News 1.45 Spain 1.55 Italy

2.00am France 2.15 Italy 2.30 Spain

2.45 Five 2.55 Let's Move

3.00 The BBC Orchestra 3.30 BBC

National Orchestra of Wales under Barry Wordsworth

Saint-Saens (Violin Concerto No 3 in F minor) 4.00

4.45 The Original Musical Agent in Search of a God? 5.00 in the second of three programmes, Christopher

Bowers-Broadbent introduces works by Vaughan Williams, Howells, Whitlock, Miller, McCabe, Bridge and Britten (22)

4.30 Mistresses: Ian Cartwright presents the third of a six-part series on *Thelonious Monk*

5.00 The Music Machine in New Orleans. See Choice

# A woman whose price is not above Ruby's

Just occasionally I wonder if I am too soft for this game. There I am, ten o'clock on a Sunday night, and who is the person I feel sorry for in the entire world? Imelda Marcos. She may have done a lot of things in her eventful life, but did any of them deserve going ten rounds with Ruby Wax?

Perhaps it was just my mellow mood, a surfeit of gentle whimsy brought on by the BBC's decision to run the delicious *Pie in the Sky* and *A Mug's Game* on the same evening. Hardly the ideal preparation for the world's only carnivorous chat show.

Whatever the reason, I wasn't ready for *Ruby Wax Meets...* (BBC1) and, far more importantly, neither was the former First Lady of the Philippines. She, whose appetite for hand-stitched leather is the stuff of legend, was about to be stumped like a kipper.

Now, I dare say Marcos de-

erves everything she gets, including Ruby Wax. But I can't prove it, just as the American courts couldn't prove it and just as Wax can't prove it either. But proof is a minor obstacle on the path to prime-time humiliation. She might not have had the smoking cheque stub but Wax came armed with the famous statistics (2,600 pairs of shoes, 1,500 handbags, 1,000 ball gowns and one disputed bullet-proof bra), a mischievous cameraman and a copy of *Hello!*. It proved an unbeatable combination.

*Hello!* swung things. That particular issue had Wax on the cover, clutching some passing infant, and once Marcos had been presented with the evidence of her tormentor's international celebrity status they became 'best friends'. Suddenly, the half-hour interview (Wax warmed up by torturing an aide: 'Do shoes play an important part in her life? — do you think

that's a bad first question?') turned into a three-day state visit.

Nothing was too much trouble. Marcos sang for her (quite badly but not badly enough to be really funny, so Wax resorted to silly camera work); she took her to church (really quite bad singing); introduced her to friends and senior employees (one of whom, praise be, was cleverer than Wax) and, finally, took her to parliament.

**W**ax repaid the hospitality with clever little questions and nasty bits of archive footage: 'What do you think of abortion?' 'We don't believe in any taking of life.' Cue uncaptioned film of bloody bodies. 'So who do you think shot Mr Aquino?' Cue film of Aquino being shot. Only Wax could play it so hard for laughs and still expect to be taken seriously.

We finished as we began —

hunting for shoes. Presumably as encouragement, Wax had worn a different pair of heels every day. But Marcos was having none of it — she stuck resolutely to a pair of sensibly-heeled espadrilles. Finally, however, Wax got her reward — she was admitted to the inner sanctum, an aric where dozens of dresses hung in rows ('Oh, Zsa Zsa has this one') and the shelves of shoes extended into the far dis-

tance. As Wax succinctly put it: 'Bingo.'

Earlier, *A Mug's Game* (BBC1) had finished on a similar note of vulgar triumph. Con (Sean Harris), an exiled Belfast Roman Catholic with a tendency to shout, punched the air after a significant moment with Kathy (Michelle Fairley), a lapsed Scottish flute player with a tendency to dismember salmon. All she had done was kiss him on the hand but it was enough. Things were about to get unexpectedly complicated.

Unexpected, because until that moment *A Mug's Game* had looked like rather a lot of other Scottish dramas, the sort of things that Bill Forsyth might knock off in a quiet moment. They're always welcome but there is no denying they're all a bit the same.

Lots of beautiful scenery, a cast of relatively unfamiliar faces, some improbably polished comic dialogue, one newcomer and what

Kathy, Con hates McCaffrey — only Donna Franceschild, the writer, knows. But it should be worth finding out.

Whether it will be worth watching any more of *Paul Merton in Galton & Simpson's...* (ITV, Friday) is a far more debatable point. Teaming up one of the biggest comedy stars of the 1990s with two of the comic pioneers of the 1950s and 1960s must have looked a wonderful idea at the proposal stage but on the evidence of *12 Angry Men* it is not an alliance forged in comic heaven.

Comedy has moved on and Ray Galton and Alan Simpson's script needed more than the odd reference to O.J. Simpson or the privatised utilities to bring them up to date. As for Merton, he is more of a performer than an actor. Now, why couldn't I be that nasty about Imelda Marcos?

*Lynne Truss is on holiday*

## REVIEW

Matthew Bond



BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (41833)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (24840320)	
9.10 <i>Kirky</i> . Discussion series. (s) (2505861)	
10.00 <i>News</i> (Ceefax) regional news and weather (2602397) 10.05 <i>Can't Cook, Won't Cook</i> (s) (570368)	
10.30 <i>Good Morning</i> (54320)	
12.00 <i>News</i> (Ceefax) regional news and weather (5699349) 12.05pm <i>Pebble Mill</i> (5027455)	
12.50 <i>Regional News and weather</i> (13722610)	
1.00 <i>News</i> (Ceefax) and weather (37961)	
1.30 <i>Neighbours</i> (Ceefax) (76853504) 1.55 <i>The Rockford Files</i> (r) (4247486) 2.45 <i>Wonders of the Wild</i> (6605310) 3.05 <i>Timekeepers</i> (s) (5251165)	
3.30 <i>The Busy World of Richard Scarry</i> (r) (s) (5774413) 3.55 <i>Boggs and Badger</i> (s) (2385788) 4.10 <i>Chimpunks Go to the Movies</i> (3514423) 4.30 <i>The Game Down Under</i> (Ceefax) (8515165) 5.00 <i>Newroundup</i> (s) (4053287)	
5.10 <i>Blue Peter</i> (Ceefax) (s) (713078)	
5.35 <i>Neighbours</i> (r) (Ceefax) (s) (784349)	
5.45 5.55 <i>Inside Ulster</i> .	
5.55 6.05 <i>6 o'clock News</i> (Ceefax) and weather (233)	
6.30 <i>Regional News Magazines</i> (613) NJL: 5.30 <i>Neighbours</i> 6.57 <i>Inside Ulster News</i>	
7.00 <i>Noni's Telly Years</i> . Television quiz presented by Noni Edwards. Sharon Davies, Alan Hanson, Paul Darro and Iain St Clair remember 1978, the year they first found fame. (Ceefax) (s) (5900)	
7.30 <i>Watching</i> . Anne Robinson presents the consumer magazine (Ceefax) (s) (487)	
8.00 <i>Endeavours</i> . Pauline is upstaged by Willy's plan of action but Mark is unconvinced. Roy hatchets a plant as Frank and David come to blows. (Ceefax) (s) (1320)	
8.30 <i>Goodnight Sweetheart</i> . Gary is surrounded by house guests and is forced to take action. (Ceefax) (s) (8405)	
9.00 <i>Nine O'Clock News</i> (Ceefax) regional news and weather (3894)	
9.30 <i>Panorama</i> . From <i>Crackie</i> to <i>Greave</i> : Paying for the Future. Concluding the investigation into the erosion of the welfare state. (Ceefax) (s) (537784)	
10.10 <i>Match of the Day</i> — the Road to Wembley. Des Lynam introduces highlights of tonight's FA Cup fourth-round match between QPR and Chelsea. (s) (504962)	
10.45 <i>Film</i> 96 with Barry Norman. Featuring a review of <i>Heat</i> , starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. Plus report with Kenneth Branagh and Laurence Fishburne on the set of <i>Orlando</i> (Ceefax) (s) (50523) NJL: 10.45 <i>Country Times</i> 11.15 <i>Film</i> 98 with Barry Norman 11.45 <i>Film</i> : <i>Private Life</i> of Sherlock Holmes 1.45 <i>Weather</i>	
11.15 <i>Film</i> : <i>A Show of Force</i> (1990) starring Amy Irving and Andy Garcia. A tense political thriller set on the island of Puerto Rico. A television journalist looks danger in the face when she attempts to unravel a conspiracy while investigating the death of two young activists. Directed by Bruno Barreto (Ceefax) (s) (61610)	
12.45 <i>5am Weather</i> (6811382) WALES: 12.45am <i>News and weather</i> (6811382)	

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BBC2	
6.00am <i>Business and Work</i>	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News. (Ceefax) (5640455)	
7.15 <i>Lassie</i> (r) (3664233) 8.00 <i>Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles</i> (r) (7027887) 8.05 <i>Blue Peter</i> (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5050639)	
8.30 <i>Songs of Praise</i> from Dumfries (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1522559)	
9.05 <i>Daytime on Two</i> . Educational programmes. Plus 10.00-10.25 <i>Playdays</i> (6759839)	
1.40 <i>Storytime</i> (s) (5488558) 2.00 <i>Joshua Jones</i> (r) (s) (6821087)	
2.10 <i>Terri's Highlights of the Australian Open</i> (2575783)	
3.00 <i>News</i> (Ceefax) regional news and weather (5699349) 3.05 <i>Pebble Mill</i> (5027455)	
3.30 <i>Regional News and weather</i> (13722610)	
4.00 <i>News</i> (Ceefax) and weather (37961)	
4.30 <i>Today's the Day</i> . History quiz (s) (726)	
4.50 <i>Ready, Steady, Cook</i> (s) (610)	
5.00 <i>Esther. Solitude</i> (s) (338)	
5.30 <i>The Village</i> . A fly-on-the-wall look at everyday life in the 800-strong Hampshire village of Bentley (758320)	
5.55 <i>My Village</i> . A portrait of Ashton, Northamptonshire (461165)	
6.00 <i>Space Predict</i> . Futuristic police drama series. (Ceefax) (s) (122726)	
6.45 <i>Buck Rogers in the 25th Century</i> . Science-fiction adventure (r) (237417)	
7.20 <i>Hidden Empire: A Son of Africa</i> . (Ceefax) (s) (639)	
8.00 <i>Horizon: Nature's Numbers</i> . (Ceefax) (s) (349356)	
8.50 <i>Trade Secrets</i> . Car mechanics reveal their tricks. (Ceefax) (s) (129788)	



Malcolm McDowell as Barnett (9.00pm)

9.00 *Our Friends in the North*. A drama serial following 30 years in the lives of four Geordie friends. Now it's 1987 and Geordie is a prince of the Soho strip clubs, although his affair with Barnett's mistress is not the sweet career move. A family secret is revealed. Archive footage and the memories of sailing veterans evoke the golden age of a rich person's hobby.

*Cutting Edge: Whistleblowers* Channel 4, 9.00pm

John Peel, always a reassuring voice-over, narrates a six-part series from the team that has already given us classic cars, motorbikes and trucks. The pitch is not only to the technically minded but to the general viewer who may not know much about ships but can appreciate the wider social picture. Tonight's film is about yacht racing and covers the life of the original Royal Yacht Britannia. Commissioned by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1892, her new aerodynamic hull was a trail-blazer in yachting design and she won 24 prizes in her first season. She continued to race for more than 30 years until Edward VIII, who failed to share the family passion for sailing, had it scuttled. Archive footage and the memories of sailing veterans evoke the golden age of a rich person's hobby.

*Classic Ships: Britannia* Rules Channel 4, 9.30pm

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*Cutting Edge: Whistleblowers* Channel 4, 9.00pm

Working as an electrician on a North Sea oil rig, David Harding spotted a potential safety flaw with the fire pumps. He raised the matter through his union and his fears proved correct. But he was marked down as a troublemaker. When, four years later, he blew the whistle on another safety hazard, he was victimised by his company and colleagues and eventually made redundant. A family man with two small daughters, he became depressed and killed himself. Harding's tragedy is recalled by his widow. The other whistleblowers featuring in this disturbing film have thankfully survived to tell their own stories. But the point is forcefully made that speaking out against abuses in the workplace not only takes courage in itself but can cost jobs and wreck lives.

Peter Waymark

CHOICE	
Hidden Empire: A Son of Africa	
7.30pm	
Olaudah Equiano is not likely to be a name familiar to schoolchildren, or, for that matter, to many adults. As Dr Iain Duffield of Edinburgh University points out in the programme, British slavery has so often been constructed as the triumph of the greatest race the world has ever known — the white British people. Equiano was not only black but a slave. But unlike many other Africans who were abducted from their villages in the 18th century and transported to the Caribbean, he did not live and die in obscurity. He bought his freedom by winning a case against a brutal master, came to London and married an English woman. He became involved in the campaign to abolish the slave trade. Moreover, he left an autobiography, on which this reconstruction fruitfully draws. <p><i>Horizon: Nature's Numbers</i> BBC2, 8.00pm</p> <p>A criticism of this otherwise admirable science series, notable for its longevity and seriousness of tone, is that it tends to let the experts go unchallenged. The experts are expounded rather than debated. But this is not an accusation that can be made about tonight's film, which follows a team of world-respected biologists to the Bolivian rainforest. Their mission is to check on endangered species and to see how they might be saved. Some scientists talk of an extinction crisis, based on the hypothesis that the number of species an area can support is a direct function of its size. Reduce a rainforest by 50 per cent and 15 per cent of its species will be lost. Other experts reject this number-crunching as simplistic and flawed and suggest that the position is not as bad as the doomwatchers' claim. This <i>Horizon</i> bristles with controversy.</p> <p><i>Classic Ships: Britannia</i> Rules Channel 4, 9.00pm</p> <p>John Peel, always a reassuring voice-over, narrates a six-part series from the team that has already given us classic cars, motorbikes and trucks. The pitch is not only to the technically minded but to the general viewer who may not know much about ships but can appreciate the wider social picture. Tonight's film is about yacht racing and covers the life of the original Royal Yacht Britannia. Commissioned by the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) in 1892, her new aerodynamic hull was a trail-blazer in yachting design and she won 24 prizes in her first season. She continued to race for more than 30 years until Edward VIII, who failed to share the family passion for sailing, had it scuttled. Archive footage and the memories of sailing veterans evoke the golden age of a rich person's hobby.</p> <p><i>Cutting Edge: Whistleblowers</i> Channel 4, 9.00pm</p> <p>Working as an electrician on a North Sea oil rig, David Harding spotted a potential safety flaw with the fire pumps. He raised the matter through his union and his fears proved correct. But he was marked down as a troublemaker. When, four years later, he blew the whistle on another safety hazard, he was victimised by his company and colleagues and eventually made redundant. A family man with two small daughters, he became depressed and killed himself. Harding's tragedy is recalled by his widow. The other whistleblowers featuring in this disturbing film have thankfully survived to tell their own stories. But the point is forcefully made that speaking out against abuses in the workplace not only takes courage in itself but can cost jobs and wreck lives.</p> <p>Peter Waymark</p>	

10.00am *Coronation Street*. Maud has unwelcome visitors, and Audrey's son arrives from Canada (Ceefax) (165)

RIV	
6.00am GMTV (230252)	
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4853146)	
9.55 Regional News (Ceefax) (7636783)	
10.00 <i>The Price... the Place</i> (s) (1501084)	
10.35 <i>This Morning</i> (57741894)	
12.20pm <i>Regional News</i> (Ceefax) (6685223)	
12.30pm <i>News and weather</i> (Ceefax) (6199455)	
12.55 <i>Shortland Street</i> (s) (9175349)	
1.20 <i>Coronation Street</i> (r) (Ceefax) (3252723)	

## BUSINESS

MONDAY JANUARY 29 1996

CLEAR THE LINE 38

GRAHAM SEARJEANT URGES LABOUR TO DECIDE RAIL POLICY

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK



## P&amp;O's Bermuda move cuts UK merchant fleet by 10%

By JONATHAN PRYNN  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S precarious status as a maritime nation has been dealt another severe blow with the decision by P&O to re-register five of its biggest container ships under the Bermudan flag of convenience.

The move, which will come into effect in March or April, will cut the tonnage of the British-registered and owned fleet by nearly a tenth, reducing it to a new low of less than 3 million gross tonnes (grt). Britain's merchant navy, once the world's biggest, accounting for more than half of all ships at sea

and 80 per cent of the world's merchant navy — has gone into accelerating decline over the past 20 years.

In 1976 there were 1,614 British-owned and registered ships of 500grt, with a total tonnage of 50 million GRT. By 1995 this had dwindled to just 253 ships, putting Britain in 30th place in the world maritime league table with just 0.5 per cent of world tonnage.

The P&O move will be seen as particularly damaging because of a company's historic role as a leading British shipping line — it remains the single biggest operator of British registered ships — and because of the size of the vessels

involved. The flagging-out of the five *Liverpool Bay* class P&O container ships, *Cardigan Bay*, *Kowloon Bay*, *Liverpool Bay*, *Osaka Bay* and *Tokyo Bay*, will result in the loss of 90 British and New Zealand ratings' jobs. The officers will remain British. The ratings will be replaced by Filipinos, who will accept salaries of about half the British level, saving P&O about £500,000 a year. The total saving of flagging out could be £125 million.

Numas, the ship officers' unions, has written to Viscount Goschen, the Shipping Minister, demanding urgent government intervention to halt the slide in the British fleet. "It

really is time the Government stopped tinkering at the edges, and listened to, and acted on, what we in the industry are saying before it is too late. It is wholly irresponsible to ignore the likes of not just us in the industry, but the all-party Employment, Defence and Transport Select Committees," wrote Brian Orrell, the general secretary.

The union and the Chamber of Shipping, which represents shipping employers, are calling for the abolition of employers' national insurance contributions for seafarers, and 100 per cent tax allowances for investment in new ships. Graham Allen, Labour's shipping

spokesman, said he was "shocked" at the scale of the decline in the British fleet and said Labour was considering "a package of investment expansion, training and employment protection measures" to reverse the trend.

P&O said trading conditions in the bulk container market had never been more competitive and that the company was forced to look at where it could make savings. The ships would remain under the red ensign, because Bermuda is a British dependency and safety would continue to be regulated from Britain. The 90 ratings losing their jobs represent about 20 per cent of those in the container fleet but only a small fraction of those on its cruise liners.

The flagging out operations forms a part of a huge restructuring of the P&O group due to unfold over the next year, which could see the entire bulk carrier fleet sold. The company's shares jumped last week on City speculation that it could be the next break-up bid target. Lord Sterling, chairman and chief executive, is thought to be planning a £1 billion disposal programme that would see about a third of its worldwide property interests, Bovis Homes and its bulk cargo division sold off.

## Complaints double about British Gas

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COMPLAINTS about British Gas more than doubled last year and rose to their highest level since privatisation.

Almost 50,000 customers took their grievances to the Gas Consumers' Council, the industry watchdog, in 1995, a rise of 102 per cent over the previous year. Of those, 37,172 had turned to the council after getting no satisfactory answer from British Gas.

Ian Powe, director of the council, said: "British Gas had a rotten year and so did too many of its customers. But we remain impressed by the high engineering standards and can-do attitudes that characterise the company's front-line staff despite their difficulties."

The final level of complaints is likely to be much higher, for the figures do not cover the Christmas period when the company was forced to pay compensation to customers with service contracts who were left without heating. The council claims its resources are being stretched by the increase in complaints.

British Gas, which withdrew last year from the Government's Charter Mark scheme devised to recognise

excellence in public service, has seen sharp rises in complaints about every aspect of its business. But customer accounts and the service division have been singled out for acute criticism.

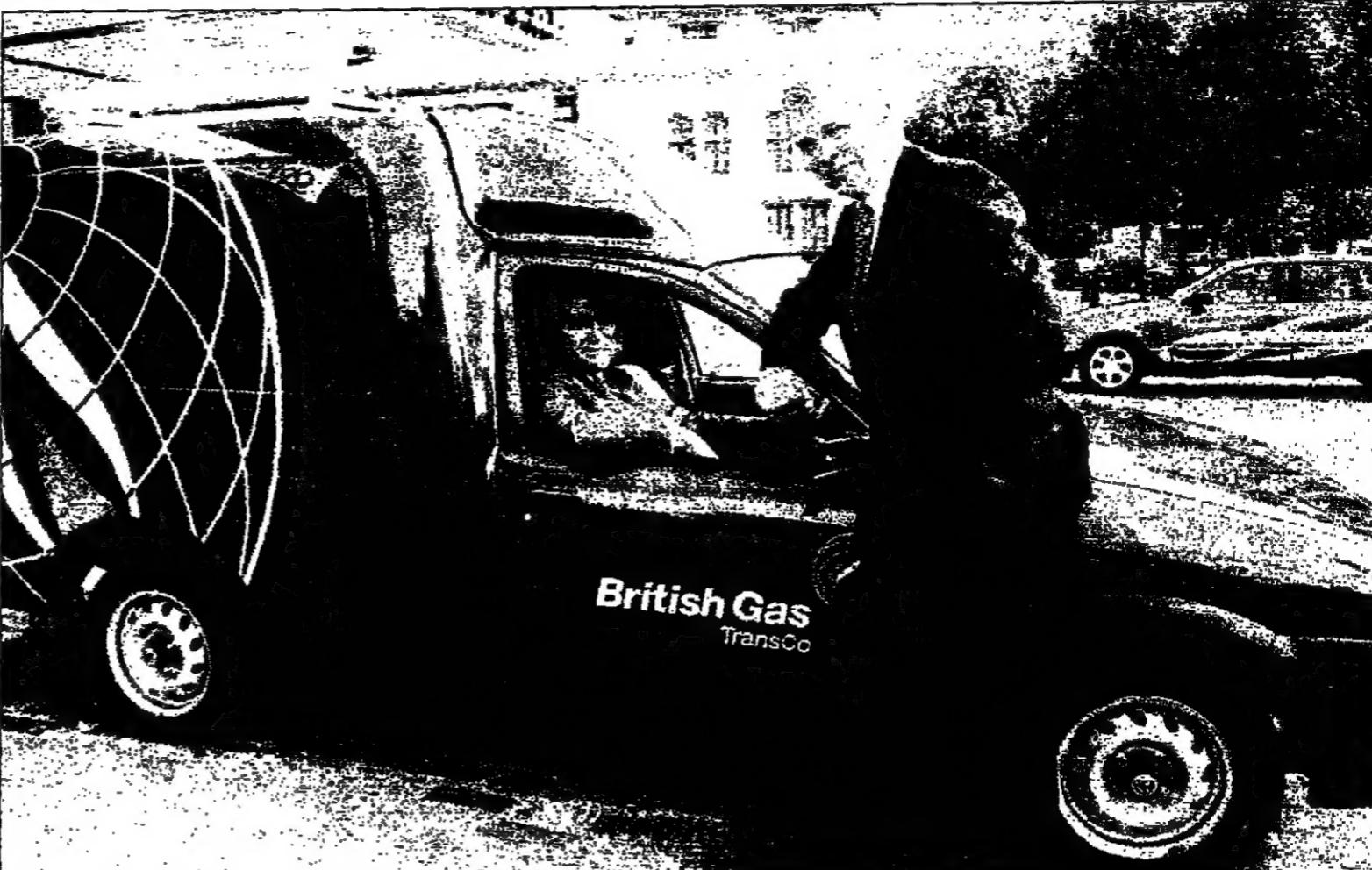
Consumers appear to have shown a greater willingness to complain following the adverse publicity that surrounded the remuneration of the company's chief executive, Cedric Brown, and his chairman, Richard Giordano.

In the service division, the subject of much controversy after the company failed to deliver contract service on time to many customers and suspended non-contract work in some areas, complaints increased by average 118 per cent.

British Gas's retail business also attracted more complaints when the company appeared unable to handle the increase in business. Grievances about delays in supplying appliances soared 689 per cent to 773, while delays in fitting rose 156 per cent to 581. The number of customers with account disputes rose 119 per cent to 10,419.

Roy Gardner, executive director for supply, retail and service at British Gas, said: "Restructuring of the UK gas business to meet the demands of competition and regulation has caused problems with our level of service to customers." He added that severe weather had further tested resources.

Mr Powe said the council was working with British Gas on closer links between them to try to find remedies for consumer dissatisfaction.



Customers seem to have shown a greater willingness to complain after the adverse publicity over the pay of Cedric Brown, standing, and Richard Giordano

## Rival bid looms for Lloyds Chemists

By SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYDS CHEMISTS, the subject of a £500 million acquisition bid from Unichem, is this week expected to be faced with a counter offer from Gehe, the German drugs wholesaler.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Gehe's merchant bank adviser, is said to be finalising details of a rival offer. Analysis expect that any resulting offer from

the German company will top Unichem's bid. The City's expectation of a rival bid is reflected in the share price of Lloyds Chemists, which, at Friday's closing figure of 426p, is above the value of Unichem's offer.

Gehe has been rapidly expanding its drug wholesale business in recent years and is now the largest drug whole-

aler in Europe. The company, which is majority-owned by Franz Haniel, a private company, and in which Dresdner Bank is a shareholder, entered the UK last year with the £400 million acquisition of AAH. In 1993, it won a contested bid for OCP, a French company, in which it paid £325 million for a 95 per cent stake.

Unichem and AAH both

to pay 450p, which compares to Unichem's agreed offer of 325p, in cash plus four Unichem shares for every three Lloyds Chemists shares held.

The acquisition of AAH also gave Gehe more than 300 pharmacies, the fourth-largest chain in the UK. Lloyds Chemists consists of 924 pharmacies.

Gehe is said to be prepared

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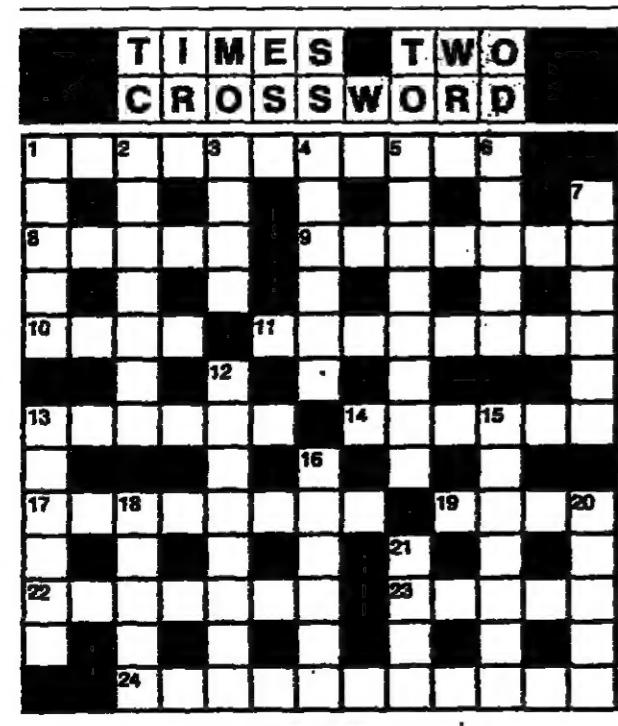


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SHARP

INTELLIGENT THINKING



**ACROSS**

- 1 Lacking compassion (4,2,5)
- 2 Plant; murmur; nonsense (7)
- 3 Arrest (7)
- 4 Practical joke (4)
- 5 George and Ira — (8)
- 6 Discussion (6)
- 7 Enforce (6)
- 8 Broken chord (neus) (8)
- 9 Crustaceous; apple (4)
- 10 In which one disappears wholly (4,3)
- 11 On the qui vive (5)
- 12 Gim (7,4)
- 13 Tolls off course; skirt dress (4)
- 14 Resisted (11)
- 15 Wasted (3)
- 16 Melanin (4)
- 17 Ochre (5)
- 18 Wide open (6)
- 19 Resisted (11)
- 20 Labrador (12)
- 21 Wedgewood (13)
- 22 Sausage (4)
- 23 Deny (14)
- 24 Gim (7,4)

**DOWN**

- 1 Emerge from egg (5)
- 2 Plant; murmur; nonsense (7)
- 3 Twinge (4)
- 4 Element; 5-cent piece (6)
- 5 Precedent (8)
- 6 Wife of brave (5)
- 7 Centre of nut (6)
- 8 Motoring (water) (5)
- 9 Shortage (6)
- 10 Johnny-come-lately (7)
- 11 Transfix (6)
- 12 King of Troy (5)
- 13 What relay-runners hand over (5)
- 14 Resisted (11)
- 15 Tolls off course; skirt dress (4)
- 16 Melanin (4)
- 17 Ochre (5)
- 18 Wide open (6)
- 19 Resisted (11)
- 20 Labrador (12)
- 21 Wedgewood (13)
- 22 Sausage (4)
- 23 Deny (14)
- 24 Gim (7,4)

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DOWN: 1 Monroe, 2 Wasted, 3 Melanin, 4 Ochre, 5 Wide open, 6 Resisted, 11 Labrador, 12 Wedgewood, 13 Sausage, 14 Deny, 15 Gim, 16 Arabie.

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## Criticism of 'fat cats' curbs top salaries

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DIRECTORS of large companies last year received pay increases just above the inflation rate, a survey published today shows, suggesting for the first time that public criticism of "fat cats", particularly of generous share option deals, may have curbed the salaries of Britain's top earners.

Sedgwick Nibley Lowndes, the firm of consultants, found that the average base salary rise for chief executives and directors of large companies — those with turnover of more than £1 billion — was 3.8 per cent last year, compared with an inflation rate of 3.2 per cent. This resulted in an average basic pay of £325,000, rising to £374,000, including bonuses. Pay rises have been nearer 6 per cent in recent years, the firm said.

"It is possible we are seeing the first signs of pay restraint at top level in reaction to the adverse publicity on directors' remuneration," Andy Christie, the consultancy director responsible for the survey, said.

Public criticism has focused on high pay awards and generous bonuses and share option schemes at privatised utility companies. Most recently, it was reported that David Jefferies, chairman of National Grid, was sitting on paper profits on his share options worth £525,000, to go with a salary of £320,000.

Directors on the boards of subsidiary companies, whose salaries are not always disclosed in company accounts, failed to show similar self-



control and their basic salaries rose about 8 per cent last year. Their managing directors' pay rose to an average £97,775 (£101,550 including bonuses) and board members received an average £50,220 (£67,552). "They are either performing

## Most firms awarding 3.5% rises

By PHILIP BASSITT

INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements are running ahead of inflation, a new analysis of the first pay deals of the new year suggests today.

The examination of current pay trends is the first since fresh controversy was prompted when Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, last week forecast a return to rising real wages in the longer term as the economy grew.

After his statement, which rested on the idea of inflation, pay and growth largely being in equilibrium at the moment rather than pay and prices chasing each other, the independent study from Incomes Data Services says that settlements are rising more quickly than retail price inflation.

Looking at pay deals so far in January, IDS says that the initial picture shows that deals are "maintaining their level despite the fall in inflation".

IDS says that a majority of companies are currently awarding rises of 3.5 per cent, a fair notch ahead of the present inflation rate of 3.1 per cent. Three-quarters of the current range of deals were also ahead of the known inflation rate at the time they were negotiated — usually in about November for a January settlement date.

Most deals, the study says, are clustered in a 3-4 per cent range, with only one in ten agreements monitored at below that level. In January 1995, pay awards were running at 2.5-3.5 per cent.

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